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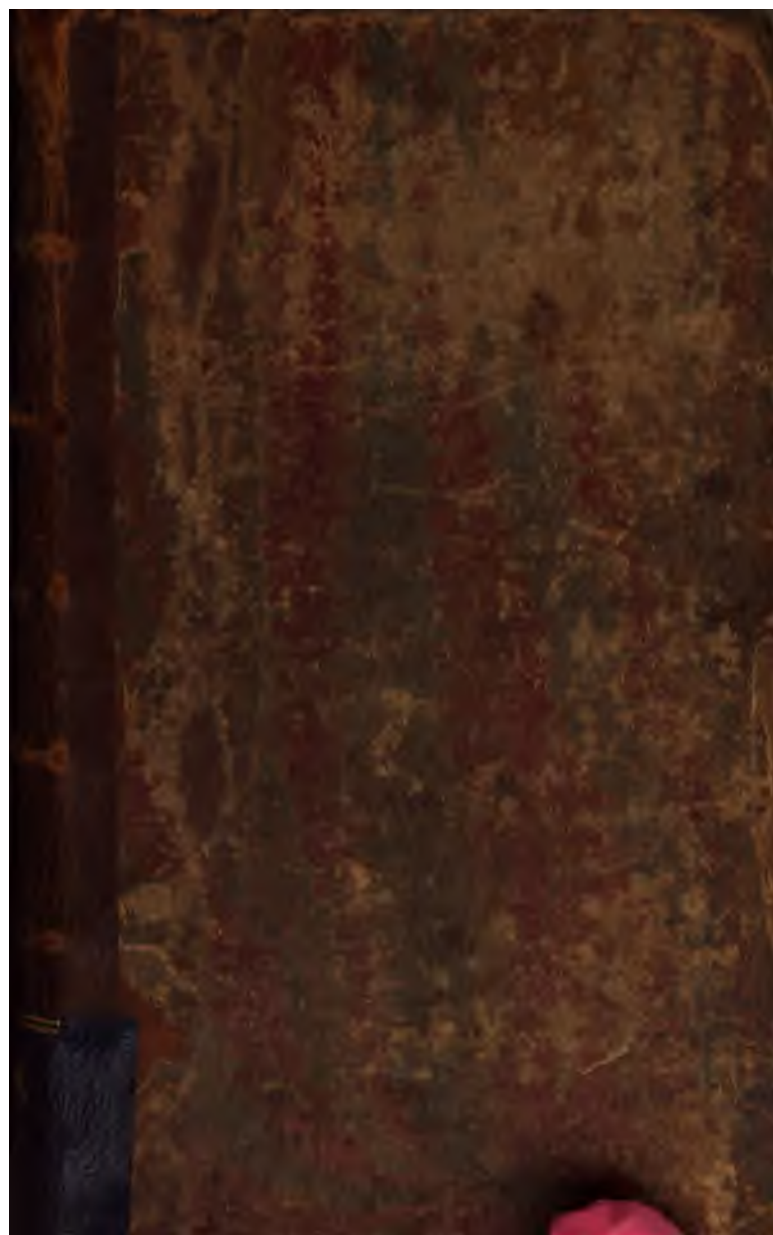
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Margaret Jones

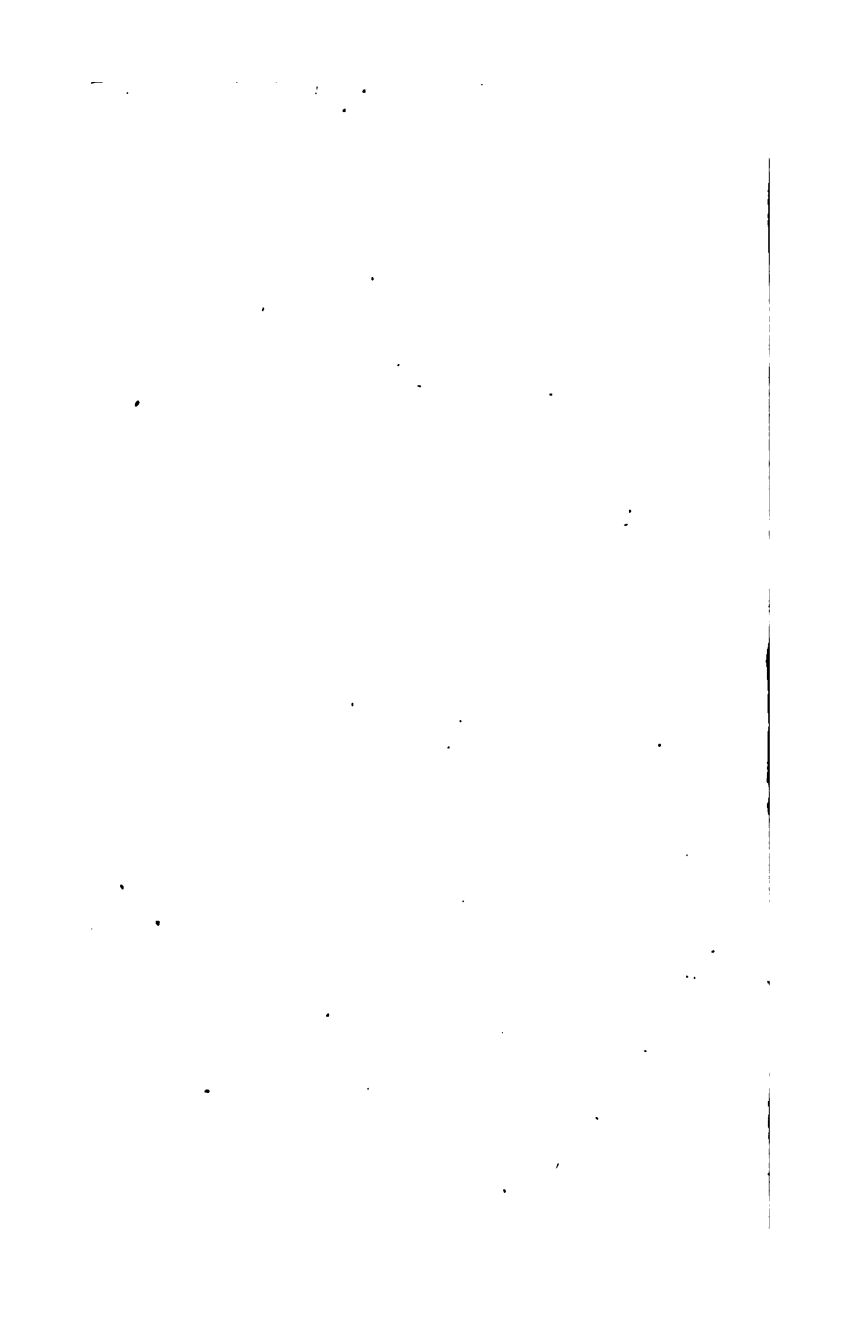
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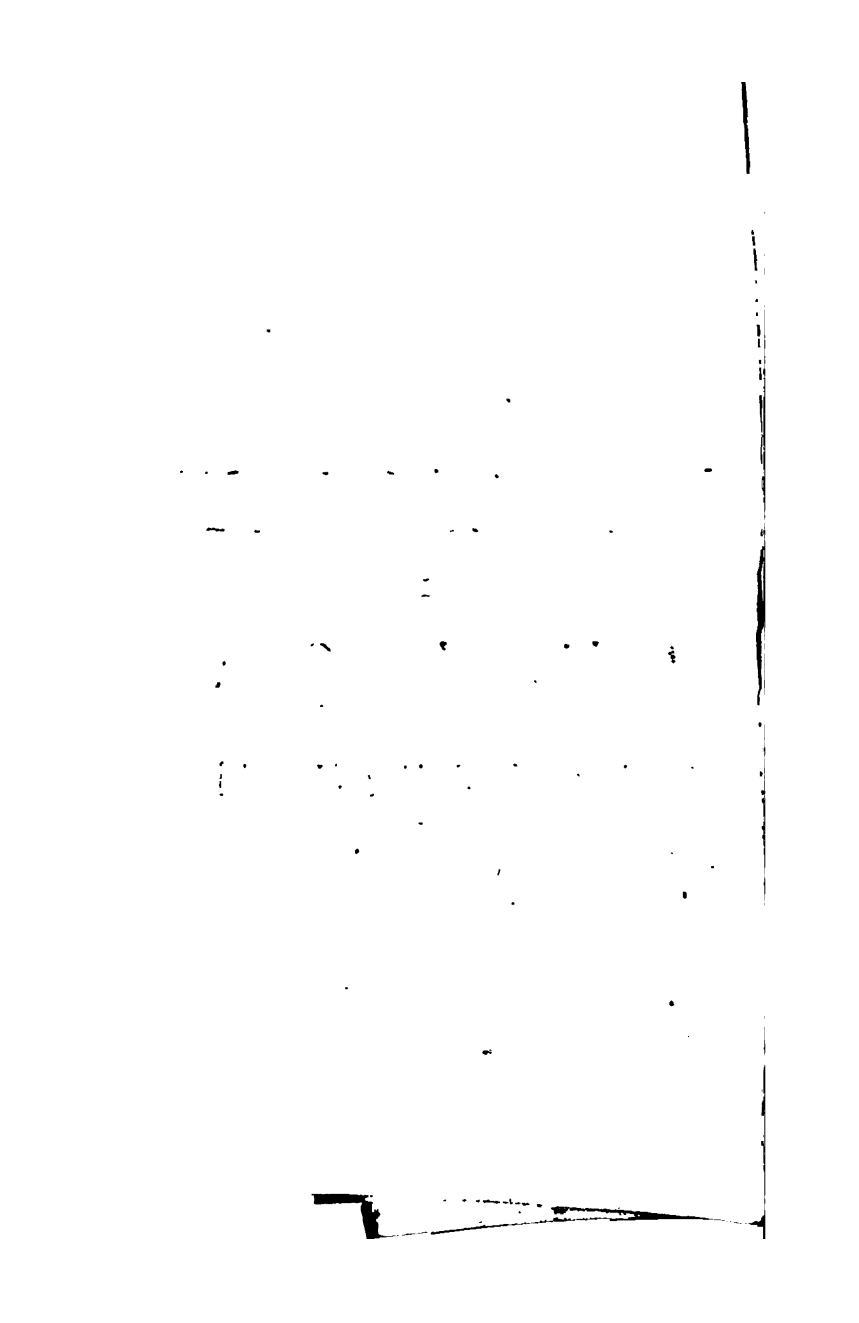
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T H E
HISTORY
O F

Sophia Shakespear.

[Price 2s. 6d. few'd, 3s. bound.]



T H E
HISTORY
O F

Sophia Shakespear.

*For various Fates Mankind are sure design'd!
More various still the Fates of Womankind!
Caught by a Glance, or by a Frown undone,
And often court the Monster they shou'd shun.*

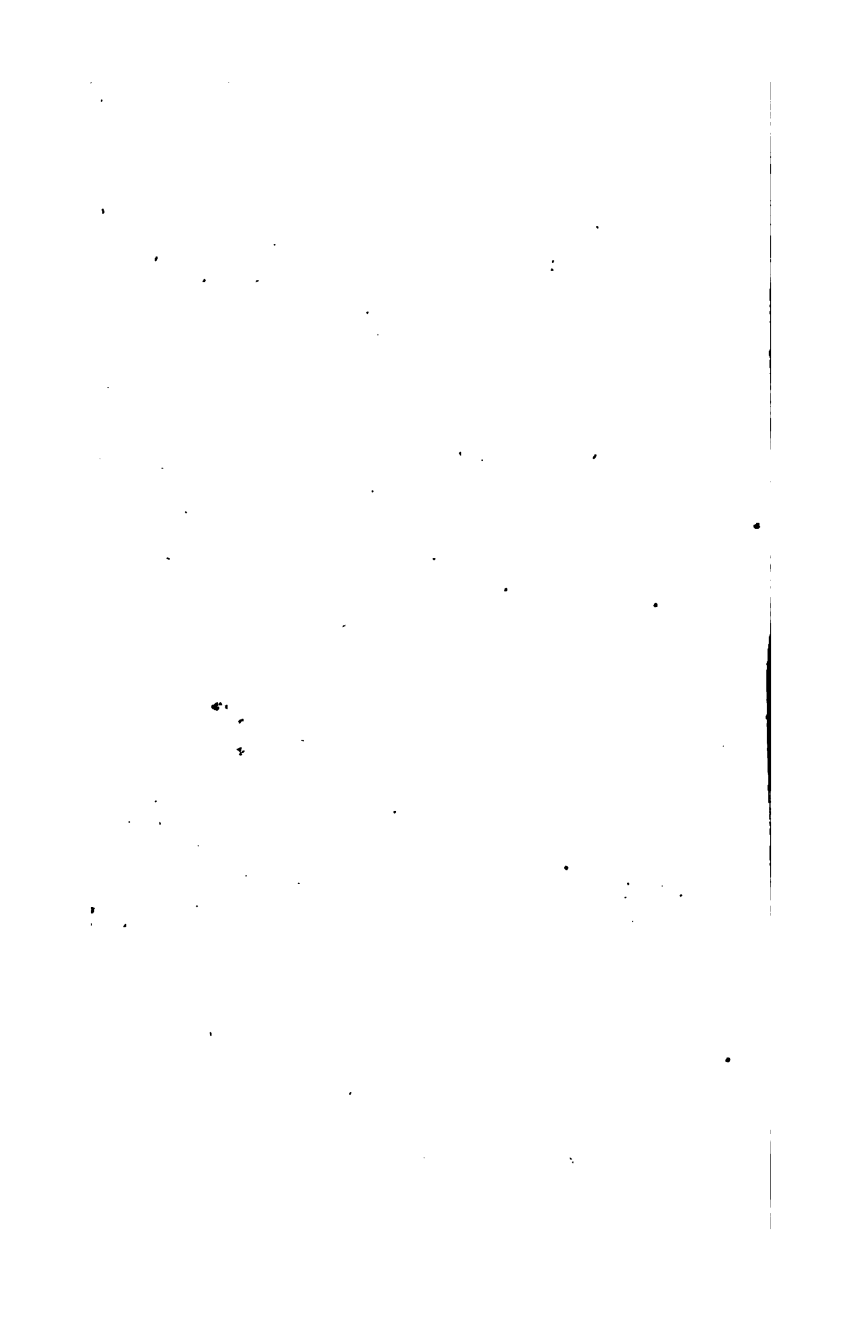
ANONYMOUS.

L O N D O N:

Printed and sold by W. REEVE, in
Fleet-Street; H. SLATER, in *Drury-*
Lane; and at the Printing-Office, in
Hind-Court, Fleet-Street.

M. DCC. LIII.

249 . s . 768



PREFACE.

*THO' Histories of this Kind
are grown very rife of late,
and every Day the Advertisers
promise us some new Production
of this Nature, I can't think
them detrimental to Society, or
useless to the World; but, on
the contrary, would recommend
them to be read in all Families,
b especially*

viii P R E F A C E

*especially by the younger Branches
of it.*

*Books of Entertainment have
always been allow'd and en-
courag'd, and notwithstanding
what some grave Pedants (who
have not Humour enough to
divert others, nor Wit to please
themselves) advance against the
present Age; saying, with pre-
tended Grief, That we are now
more wicked than ever; I must
declare, I think the reverse: For
we are earlier instructed in the
Principles of Virtue, Religion
and Honour, than in any former
Times. Nay, we have thrown
off that stupid Custom, of Chil-
dren not being suffer'd to write
or*

P R E F A C E. ix

or read any Kind of Treatise, before it is perus'd by the Tutor, nor engage in any Action 'till Twenty-one, so that the Theory of Virtue was only then their Study; but now our Youth, by falling early into the Practice, are soon acquainted with the Manners of Men, and avoid being made Enthusiasts to false Doctrines, or bubbled by wicked Designers: Nor can I help thinking this Reformation is owing, in a great Measure, to the present Manner of Writing.

*The wisest and best of Authors formerly employ'd their Time in that Species of Literature, call'd Romance; where
every*



PREFACE. xi

Whereas our modern Novels, being Copies of real Life, must turn to the Improvement of every Reader. Here we see Baseness of every Kind expos'd, and all the subtle Ways of Villainy laid open. Men may distinguish Courage, from Bullying; Friendship, from Hypocrisy; and Applause, from Flattery.---Women, the Protections of real Love, from the forc'd Compliments of Coxcombs; learn to chuse their Acquaintance with Prudence, and fix their Affections with Honour.

*With these Views the following Sheets were wrote;
and,*

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and, if any of the Characters contain'd in them should expose Vice and promote Virtue, the Author will receive more Satisfaction than the conscious Weakness of his Abilities promis'd him.

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THE

T H E
HISTORY
O F
Sophia Shakespear.

C H A P. I.

Some Account of her Family.

MY Father was a Merchant, near the *Royal-Exchange*. He dy'd when I was very young. He left my Mother a Jointure of five Hundred Pounds *per Ann.* and a great deal of ready Money, to be dispos'd of as she
B should

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should think convenient, not confining her Conduct in the least : For his Opinion of her was too good, even to think she would have us'd it in the idle Manner she afterwards did. To me he bequeath'd ten Thousand Pounds for a Fortune, to be paid either on the Day of Marriage, or else when I attain'd my eighteenth Year ; which, together with the Management of my Education, he entrusted to her Care : For he thought none more capable of such a Trust than herself, having been always too fond of her to see into her Faults.

But before I proceed any farther, to give you the greater Insight into the Situation in which my Father left me, it will be requisite to give some Account of my Mother.

She was a Woman of an extravagant, imperious Temper ; though my Father, being very wealthy, never thought any Thing of what she spent : And she took Care not to shew any of her Haughtiness to him, lest he should withhold his Munificence. But, alas ! when he was
dead,

dead, and she entirely Mistress of herself, her Temper too apparently, and I may say, too fatally shew'd itself——
 Fatally indeed for me, for it was the chief Cause of my subsequent Misfortunes.

She was reckon'd to have been very handsome; but was, at the Time of her being left a Widow, very much upon the Decline, yet had still a high Opinion of her Charms; and would ever after abhor the Person that would once tell her, her Beauty was faded: Wherefore nought pleas'd her but Flattery, and she deem'd that Man very ill-bred that, in her Company, paid his Respects elsewhere than to those Eyes, whose Lustre was now much impair'd; or that did not praise the beautiful Symmetry of her Features, and her ivory Complexion: And it must be own'd, she had once been very agreeable. In short, she thought no Body extell'd her, such was her intolerable Vanity. To see a Woman paid a greater Regard to than herself, was her greatest Torment. She
 would

would swell with Envy and Indignation, and her Behaviour plainly betray'd her Uneasiness, as well as it's Source. To this was added a very fiery, passionate Temper, which would induce her to break out into Expressions very little becoming the Character of a modest Woman, when she thought herself any Way reprov'd, or her Foibles in the least glanc'd at : And, knowing her own Faults, though she never strove to correct them, would take People's Discourse that seem'd to touch her (tho' not so meant) to be aim'd at herself, which made her very ridiculous wherever she came.

She was, for these Reasons, avoided by all her better Sort of Female Acquaintance, and seldom seen in any Company of superior, or even equal Rank to herself. She herded chiefly with those, who, for the sake of being treated, would flatter her Weakness, and take Care never to touch on that ungrateful String, her Vanity ; or mention any of her Follies, without it was to
gain

Sophia Shakespear. 21

gain some End in praising them, so as to make them appear Virtues to her: And as she thought there could be no End to her Riches, she car'd not what Price she paid for having her *dear, dear* Vanity fed.

She had been always a Woman of Intrigue; but my Father, being an easy temper'd Man, and having a very great Affection for her, was blind to her Manner of Living, which yet was conspicuous to every one else: Nay, when some busy People represented to him her Conduct, desiring him to restrain her; he answer'd, *E'en let her do as she will, I see nothing by her that's bad: Besides, I seldom heed what Women say; and I am sure this is a Woman's Story, if we had it from the first Hand: For I know they all envy her, because she surpasses them in Beauty; wherefore, be certain, I shan't mind any Thing that's said of her.*

Her Character was blasted all about the City of London. She had sundry Times been the Week's Chat of the Tea-Table Politicians,

Politicians, by whom her patch'd Reputation had been often canvas'd.

In about three or four Years after my Father's Decease, my Mother's more genteel Acquaintance began to know her real Disposition, and to drop their Familiarity; so that, in five Years Time, it was a Wonder to see her in any other Company, than such as came to see her for the sake of being treated; and who would not have car'd, when they had got what they could out of her, if she had been hang'd. As for the others, they never came near her; and, when she visited, were not at Home, or at once to prevent further Importunity, very busy.

I was now about twelve Years old, and very sprightly; and though they had forsaken my Mother, they did not forget me, esteeming my Company very much, and looking upon me to be very agreeable. They often told me I had a great Share of Wit, more than could be expected from one of my Years, so that I was seldom at Home with

Sophia Shakespear. 23

with my Mother, excepting at Night; and, as I was too young to give her any Umbrage, she seldom minded what I did or where I was.

C H A P. II.

Character of Leonora. Arrival of Cordelio and his Friend, who he had deliver'd from Robbers.

THE Person that I spent most Part of my Time with, was an agreeable, sensible young Lady, whom I shall distinguish by the Name of *Leonora*. She was a Widow, the Relict of an honourable Knight, and liv'd upon her Jointure.

She was of a merry Disposition; and, her Temper suiting very much with mine, we were seldom asunder. She scarcely paid a Visit, or made an Entertainment, without me. This gave
me

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me an Opportunity of knowing all her Acquaintance and Relations. She hardly ever undertook any Thing, without my being first consulted. I was her greatest Confidant, and the Mistress of her most bosom Secrets. She told me all the most remarkable Passages of her Life, and of every Relation she had. Among others she often mentioned a Relation she had, call'd *Cordelio*, then on his Travels, for whom she always express'd a particular Regard; representing him to me as an agreeable, learned, polite Gentleman.

As I knew her to be a Woman of good Understanding and Judgment (for such was her universal Character) I could not in the least doubt him, what she averr'd him to be. She had so often describ'd him as a very accomplish'd Gentleman, that I had form'd to myself a very pleasing Idea of him, and long'd impatiently for his Return: But little did I think of the fatal Consequence——of the many Misfortunes that Return was to plunge me into, or I should

should not have so ardently desir'd it.

Sitting one Day with *Leonora*, without any other Company, her Footman brought her up a Letter, which I observ'd her peruse with a Countenance that seem'd to speak a deal of Satisfaction. When she finish'd reading it, *Here*, says she, turning herself to me, *here's News for you! My Cousin Cordelio, the Gentleman whom you have so often heard me commend, is nigher Home than we imagin'd; for here he informs me, he expects to see me To-morrow Night. — Here, you may read it yourself. I am sure you desire to be acquainted with him, as much as I do to see him; for I know I set your Curiosity on the Edge.* Saying this, she flung me the Letter to read; which, as she never demanded of me, so did not return it, but have still preserv'd it safe through the Flood of my Misfortunes, for his Sake, by whom it is subscrib'd.

To LEONORA.

DEAR COUSIN,

*'TIS with Impatience I have long'd
to see my Friends, and particular-
ly my dear Leonora. Hard it is to
express the Joy I have in finding myself
so near them, after so long an Ab-
sence: But, be assur'd, I have not had
a greater Satisfaction these three Years
than at present, in being able to inform
you, I hope the Pleasure of seeing you,
in your own House, To-morrow Night;
when I shall be better able to express
the Regard I have for her, who, as
a Friend, and as a Relation, is doubly
dear to*

CORDELIO.

I was at the reading this Letter fill'd
with an unspeakable Joy, for which
I could give no Reason; and felt certain
Emotions, which I could no Way ac-
count for: But I have since believ'd
it to be a Kind of sympathetic Love;
and,

and, for certain, every Person in my Circumstances must have been the same Way affected.

As it was no uncommon Thing for me (when my Mother knew where I was) to spend three or four Days with *Leonora*, I lay with her that Night, and resolv'd to stay with her all the following Day. We impatiently expected the next Day; and to me, who had so great a Curiosity to see him, it was an Age. In short, Day was far spent, and we still expected, but no Sign of him. At length it struck Ten, and we gave over all Thoughts of seeing him that Night. On hearing a Noise in the Street, *Leonora* rung for her Footman, whom she order'd to go and enquire the Occasion of it. When he return'd, he told us, There was a Hue and Cry after some Villains, who had grossly abus'd a Gentleman in attempting to rob him; that he had resisted them with a great deal of Valour, 'till he had got some Help,
but

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but that he had been very much hurt.

Leonora told me she suspected this might be her Cousin ; and indeed my Fears for him (for though I knew him not as yet, I felt a secret Boding in my Soul, which told me I should be sorry if he were hurt) suggested me the same Suspicion. The Gentleman's Behaviour, and the Footman saying he was a Country Gentleman, augmented our Fright. She order'd the Footman to enquire who it was, when a loud Rap at the Door rais'd our Spirits ; and taking this to be *Cordelio*, as indeed it was, we retir'd to compose ourselves, which we did in a Minute.

After some Delay, he was conducted to the Room where we both were. He immediately flew to *Leonora* ; and, catching her in his Arms, embrac'd her with all the Joy imaginable : But she interrupted his Raptures, to present him to me ; telling him, That Lady had, for

Sophia Shakespear. 29

for a long while, an earnest Desire of being acquainted with him, through the Character she had often given her of him; and that she was a Person very worthy of his Esteem: Upon which he very civilly saluted me; saying, He hop'd I would forgive his Rudeness, in not seeing me before; but the Joy he had in beholding a Person so dear to him as *Leonora*, after so long an Absence, had prevented his minding any Thing else; but that he should always have a Regard for a Person, whom his kind Cousin had so dearly recommended.

He was a Man something above the common Size, fair complexion'd, and well shap'd, neither too fat or too lean. He was about twenty-five Years of Age, and had something in his Face that promis'd a great deal of good Humour. His first Appearance charm'd me. He caught me two or three Times staring at him, which put me very much to the Blush: But he, as he afterwards told

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told me, attributed it to nothing but his unfashionable Dress.

Leonora call'd to her Footman, and order'd him to bring in the Collation, for she had the Day before prepar'd one: But he stopp'd him, and address'd himself to her. " Dear Cousin, *says* he, " I must beg you to defer this for " a little while, 'till I have seen a Gentleman, with whom I have made " bold to trouble your House, taken " Care of. The Case is this: After I " had put up my Horse, I was hastening hither as fast as I could; when, " coming near that Corner of this " Street, that turns off towards *Hanover-Square*, I heard the clashing of " Swords; and, by the Help of a " Lamp, which was very nigh, perceiv'd three Men well arm'd with " Swords and Pistols, pressing very " hard upon a single Gentleman; who, " with a Rapier, defended himself very " well. I immediately drew my Sword, " and made up to help him: When " one of the three, swearing a bitter " Oath,

Sophia Shakespear. 31.

“ Oath, said, If I came near, he would
 “ blow my Brains out. Not heeding
 “ what he said, I advanc’d pretty hastily,
 “ on which one of them fir’d upon
 “ us, shot the Gentleman through the
 “ Arm, and immediately fled. I instantly
 “ conducted him into a Shop;
 “ and, having search’d his Wound,
 “ which I found not to be very dangerous,
 “ I ty’d a Handkerchief about
 “ it, to stop the Bleeding. But imagine
 “ my Joy, when I found the Person,
 “ whom I had thus timely reliev’d,
 “ was one to whom I had been much
 “ oblig’d, and who was a particular
 “ Friend. Finding him well enough to
 “ walk hither, I forc’d him to come;
 “ and I must trespass so much upon
 “ your good Nature, as to beg of you
 “ to let him lie here To-night, having
 “ already sent for a Surgeon to dress his
 “ Wound. After I have seen my
 “ Friend taken Care of, I shall wait on
 “ you, and obey you in what you
 “ please.” “ Dear Cousin, *answer’d*
 Leonora, “ command my House, as if
 “ it

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“ it were your own ; and I need not
 “ assure you, that you are as well—
 “ come.”

When the Surgeon had dress'd his Wound, he told us, That it was not very dangerous, but that he requir'd some Rest.

After we had left him to his Repose, we all partook of the Collation ; with which having refresh'd ourselves for that Night, we each of us retir'd.

The next Day, as my Mother's Time of Leave was expir'd, I was oblig'd to go Home for that Day, otherwise she would have exercis'd her Severity on me. *Leonora* engag'd me to spend the next Day with her, and promis'd to send her Footman to obtain Leave for me from my Mother that Evening.

I spent the Day but dully, in poring over some old Books. In the Evening *Leonora's* Footman came to invite me, as was before determin'd, and obtain'd his Desire.

At Night I went to Bed, but not to taste of Sleep, or calm Repose. The
 pleasing

pleasing Slumbers, that I us'd to enjoy, were Strangers to my Breast; and if I, for a Minute, clos'd my Eyes, I thought I saw *Cordelio* plac'd before me. In short, I scarcely slept all Night for thinking of him: And I felt certain Symptoms within me, which, in all the Books I had ever read, were represented as Signs of growing Love.

I rose early in the Morning and dress'd myself, in order to go to *Leonora's*. My Mother was seldom up 'till near Noon, as she commonly spent the Remainder of the Day, and good Part of the Night, in such Company as I have before describ'd: However, having before obtain'd my Credentials, I left Word with a Servant whither I was gone.

When I enter'd *Leonora's* Parlour, I found her and *Cordelio*, with Breakfast before them, waiting for me. He immediately rose up and saluted me. It greatly pleas'd me to think he did it with more Warmth than the preceding Day. Having pass'd some Compliments

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on my Beauty, which I had the Vanity to think none of the meanest, we took our Seats at the Tea-Table, where we begg'd some short Account of his Travels, and in what Manner he had been oblig'd to the wounded Gentleman, who was not as yet stirring. Having told a History of some comical Adventures which had befallen him, he came to relate the Rise of his Acquaintance with that Gentleman.

C H A P. III.

The Adventures of Cordelio.

“ *N*icander, says he, is a Gentleman
 “ to whom I stand very much in-
 “ debted, on this Account: When I
 “ was in *Florence*, one of the chief
 “ Cities in the great Dukedom of *Tus-*
 “ *cany*, a very handsome Lady happen-
 “ ing to sit near me one Day in Church,
 “ seem'd

Sophia Shakespear. 35

“ seem’d to observe me very strictly ;
 “ and, seeing she was attended by a
 “ Gentleman who appear’d to me to
 “ have Authority over her, besides her
 “ Woman, there was no Possibility of
 “ speaking to her. Resolving to know
 “ her Reasons for noticing me so strict-
 “ ly, as well as to play a Piece of Gal-
 “ lantry, I stepp’d aside and wrote her
 “ a Bit of a Note, setting forth, That
 ① “ having seen her lift up her Veil to
 “ wipe her Face (for the Weather was
 “ excessive hot) her Eyes had wounded
 “ me so deeply, that unless she took
 “ some Pity on me, and did me the
 “ Honour of conversing with me for a
 “ few Moments, that I might know
 “ my Fate, I was inevitably lost.
 “ This I folded up, without any
 “ Direction ; and, as the People were
 “ going out of Church, I pluck’d her
 “ Duenna by the Sleeve. *Venerable*
 “ *Mother, I am wicked ; I am a very*
 “ *wicked Sinner. And Son,* says she,
 “ *which of us is not ? Ah ! Mother,*
 “ reply’d I, *mine is a Crime of the*
 “ *deepest*

36. The History of

"deepest Dye: And I had last Night a
 "Vision, whereby I was inform'd,
 "That, without your Assistance, all
 "my Efforts for Pardon would be in-
 "effectual. Son, reply'd she, acquaint
 "me but in what Manner to proceed,
 "and I shall be glad, as far as my
 "poor Prayers can go, to help you.
 "In this Paper, Mother, reply'd I, is
 "set down the Nature of my Crime,
 "and the Saint against whom it is
 "committed; giving her, at the same
 "Time, the Letter for her Mistress:
 "And here Mother (giving her a small
 "Bill of Exchange) are the Directions
 "how to proceed, the Contents of
 "which I would have none partake
 "but yourself. Well, Son, says she, I
 "shall do my Endeavour, and shall
 "meet you here To-morrow at this
 "Hour to know your Success.

"Accordingly the next Day I fol-
 "low'd her, going out of Church, at-
 "tending the same Persons. Young
 "Man, says she, 'twas ill done, I must
 "needs tell you, to pitch upon me to
 "carry

“ carry your filthy Message. Was
 “ there no one to be found in the whole
 “ City fit for such an Undertaking,
 “ but a Woman of my Tears and Gra-
 “ vity? But there will come a Time
 “ when you shall answer for all these
 “ Things. Alas ! Mother, reply’d I,
 “ how can you be offended with me for
 “ striving to save my Life? Did you
 “ but know the Pains I now endure,
 “ your Charity would induce you to
 “ intercede. But, dear Mother, accept
 “ of this small Gratuity for the Trou-
 “ ble you have been at ; and, since it
 “ is doom’d that you will make me
 “ unhappy, I shall soon find a Means to
 “ rid me of my Life, which is now
 “ become a Burden to me. Saying this
 “ I gave her a Purse, with ten Guineas
 “ in it, and turn’d my Back, as if I
 “ meant to depart, but observ’d that
 “ she look’d in the Purse and seem’d
 “ well pleas’d ; which, having done,
 “ Son ! Son ! says she, for fear I should
 “ commit a mighty Sin, in being acces-
 “ sary to the depriving you of your
 “ Life,

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“ *is out of Town, nor do we expect*
 “ *him this Week, therefore I'd have*
 “ *you make good Use of your Time. To-*
 “ *morrow Morning she'll be glad to see*
 “ *you: But, as she is strictly watch'd,*
 “ *you must pretend Business from her*
 “ *Father, otherwise you won't be*
 “ *admitted. Having promis'd to go,*
 “ *she went a little Way, but turn'd*
 “ *back again. Harkye, Son, says she,*
 “ *don't think any Thing should have*
 “ *prevail'd with me, but that I fear'd*
 “ *the Death of such a goodly Cavalier.*
 “ *No, nor that same, had I thought*
 “ *you had any ill Design. Well, Son,*
 “ *fare you well; don't fail; and be-*
 “ *sure don't tempt my young Lady to*
 “ *any Thing that's ill, for it would*
 “ *be the Death of me, and I know she*
 “ *has a Regard for you.*

“ *She would have continu'd her*
 “ *Prating longer, had I not bethought*
 “ *me, and gaye her two Ducats;*
 “ *which she took, and excus'd her-*
 “ *self, saying, She did not at all ex-*
 “ *pect it— And then trudg'd away.*
 “ *The*

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“ The next Day, according to Ap-
“ pointment, I met my Duenna near
“ the Church, who shew'd me the
“ Way, but left me when in Sight
“ of the Palace ; where, according to
“ my Information, I found her ready
“ to receive me. She introduc'd me
“ to the Lady, who entertain'd me
“ a good while, and declar'd a very
“ great Love for me, yet seem'd very
“ nice of her Honour ; but told me,
“ If I lik'd her for a Wife, she was
“ ready to marry me and undergo her
“ Father's Displeasure, but other-
“ wise I need never expect any Thing
“ of her.

“ For this she gave me four Days
“ to consider, for in a Week she
“ expected her Father in Town. I
“ left her that Morning, with a Promise
“ of waiting on her the next Day.
“ As I came from her House, or rather
“ Palace, a Person tapp'd me on the
“ Shoulder, whom I had remember'd
“ to have seen in *England*. This
“ was *Nicander*. Pray, Sir, says he,
E “ give

*" give me Leave to ask you what
" you were doing in yonder Palace?
" But without giving me Time to
" answer; I believe, Sir, says he, I
" may guess your Business? 'Twas
" with the Lady of the House, who
" says she is the Daughter of an Italian
" Nobleman. But take care of her;
" mind not what she says; for, in
" short, Sir, she is one of the greatest
" Courtezans in Florence, and the
" meekest Filt that ever was born.
" She knows she is very handsome,
" and has Spies at every Gate of the
" City, to inform her of what Stran-
" gers come into Florence, and whether
" they be rich. These Spies are of all
" Nations, and learn exactly from the
" Servants who they are. For these
" she lays wait; and, if she intraps
" them, seldom lets them go, 'till she
" has empty'd their Pockets, and then
" scoffingly forsakes them. To some
" she promises private Marriage, her
" Father being very jealous; and
" thence takes a Time, when she knows
" their*

“ their Pockets are well lin’d, to have
 “ the pretended Father break in upon
 “ them, cut off all future Intercourse
 “ between them, and plunder them of
 “ all the valuable Things they have.
 “ This, Sir, is the Manner in which
 “ she treats all those Persons, who
 “ are so weak as to be enamour’d
 “ with her beauteous Appearance. —
 “ Being, Sir, entirely a Stranger to
 “ you, it may be a little surprizing
 “ to be accosted in this Manner:
 “ But my having seen you in some of
 “ the Coffee-Houses in London, and
 “ knowing you to be my Country-
 “ man, engag’d me to inform you of
 “ the Danger you are in. Experience
 “ has convinc’d me of what I tell
 “ you; for I was one of those easy
 “ Fools, that have been fleec’d to
 “ some Purpose. But lest you shou’d
 “ suspect the Truth of what I say,
 “ I can bring you to a Place where
 “ you may be better inform’d; which
 “ I shall do, if you will give your-
 “ self

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*“ self the Trouble to come along with
“ me.*

“ To this I made him such an
“ Answer, as civilly gave him to
“ understand I cou’d not believe
“ him. Upon this he was sorry I
“ was so incredulous, but wou’d be
“ glad to hear of my Success; and,
“ giving me Directions where to find
“ him, took his Leave.

“ After he was gone, I began to
“ consider what he had said; and,
“ though I scarcely credited it, yet
“ I resolv’d to know the Truth.
“ The next Morning, according to
“ Appointment, I waited on *Abina*;
“ and told her, That I had sufficiently
“ deliberated on what she had pro-
“ pos’d, and was that Minute ready
“ to marry her: And really, had I
“ found her to be a Woman of
“ Honour, I shou’d have done so.
“ But Providence, I hope, had a
“ Hand in the Disappointment, and
“ has reserv’d me for the Arms of a
“ more

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“ more worthy Lady, in my own
“ Country.”

During the Time of this Speech, he
fix'd his Eyes stedfastly on me, which
put me into some Confusion; though,
at the same Time, nothing gave me
greater Satisfaction, than to think that
he meant me.

“ She answer'd me, That though
“ she lov'd me extreamly, yet she
“ must be assur'd that I was a Person
“ of Substance sufficient to maintain
“ her; because whoever took her,
“ unknown to her Father, must be
“ content without a Fortune, as she
“ was certain he wou'd never after
“ have any Regard for her. I told
“ her, As to that I wou'd give her
“ any Satisfaction in my Power, that
“ she shou'd demand. *Why, says she,*
“ *the only Way I have to judge, is by*
“ *the Bills of Exchange and recom-*
“ *mentatory Letters, of which a Per-*
“ *son of your Appearance must have*
“ *Plenty. 'Tis these must convince*
“ *me, that you are a Person of that*
“ *Fortune*

" Fortune you pretend to be. Madam,
" answer'd I, as for recommendatory
" Letters I have many of them, to
" several of the chief Personages of
" the Towns, thro' which I am to
" pass; but, as for Bills of Exchange,
" I seldom carry any about me. —
" How! no Bills of Exchange! re-
" ply'd she in Amaze, how then is
" it possible for you to support such
" Grandeur as you do? Madam,
" reply'd I, I seldom carry any about
" me, but what I take up as soon as
" I arrive in those Towns whither
" they are directed; and, when I leave
" one Town, take up Letters to be
" receiv'd in the next. Well, says
" she, if you take care to bring your
" Proofs with you this Evening, I
" shall have our Chaplain, who is my
" particular Friend; ready to join us
" indissolubly.

CHAP.

Sophia Shakespear. 47

C H A P. IV.

Conclusion of Cordelio's Adventures.

“ I Now began to believe what
“ *Nicander* had told me, and went
“ directly to the Governor, with whom
“ I was very intimate, and to whom
“ I had been very earnestly recom-
“ mended. To him I related the
“ whole Story; and he told me, He
“ was inclin’d to believe *Nicander*,
“ for that he had some Notice given
“ him of such a Woman. I then
“ begg’d him to lend me the Bag of
“ false Florins, which he had, not
“ long since, taken from a Coiner:
“ With this he readily comply’d; and
“ moreover order’d a Dozen of his
“ Servants, well arm’d, to attend me,
“ and scatter themselves up and down
“ by the Walls of the Palace; but,
“ upon my giving a Signal, to unite
“ themselves,

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“ themselves, force into the House,
 “ and secure the Persons in it.

“ About Dusk the Servants plac’d
 “ themselves according to Order, and
 “ I went into the House, where I
 “ was immediately introduc’d to the
 “ Lady ; who, after Compliments
 “ pass’d, examin’d my Letters, and
 “ tumbled over my Bag of Money,
 “ which was very nicely coin’d. While
 “ she was thus busy’d, I heard a
 “ Voice from without, at which I
 “ express’d some Uneasiness: But she
 “ told me, ’Twas no more than some
 “ of the Servants, going up Stairs.

“ Soon after a very tall Man, with
 “ a Pair of Whiskers not of the
 “ smallest Size, and a very huffing
 “ Air, push’d the Door open violently
 “ before him, and drove in a Ser-
 “ vant, who seem’d very much frighted.
 “ This did not much surprize me,
 “ as it was what I began to suspect.
 “ At this *Abina* shriek’d very loud ;
 “ and cry’d out, *My Father !* —
 “ He march’d up directly to her,
 “ without

“ without pretending as yet to see
 “ me. *How now! Child*, says he, in
 “ a bullying Tone, *you seem sur-*
 “ *priz'd? What's the Matter?*
 “ *Heyday!* looking on the Table,
 “ *why, what have you got here?*
 “ *Have you been opening my Cabinet?*
 “ *Whose Money is this? To whom*
 “ *do these Papers belong?*

“ *Sir, the Bearer herenf, Signior*
 “ Cordelio, (reading one of my Let-
 “ ters)——*Who was here, since I have*
 “ *been absent?* says he, turning short
 “ to that Side of the Room where
 “ I was, as if to speak to a Ser-
 “ vant.——*Heavens! who have we*
 “ *here? What Villain is this that*
 “ *dares to see my Daughter in my*
 “ *Absence?*——*The Money is his,*
 “ *then I suppose, design'd to bribe your*
 “ *Honour: But, by Heaven, his Blood*
 “ *shall answer for it; so must it be*
 “ *with all those, who dare pollute the*
 “ *Virtue of my Daughter.*——*For*
 “ *your Part, Mistress, you shall suffer*
 “ *within.* Saying this, he fasten'd
 F “ the

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“ the Door I came in at, and open’d
 “ another that led into a seeming
 “ Bed-Chamber. *But first I shall take*
 “ *care of your Purchase-Money.* He
 “ then push’d her into the Chamber
 “ before him, having my Money and
 “ Letters with him.

“ I listen’d, to try if I cou’d hear
 “ any of their Discourse, of which I
 “ over-heard a little. *Here is a Let-*
 “ *ter to Count Marino in Rome,*
 “ says the Bully. *This will serve*
 “ *me to take upon me the Character*
 “ *of this Cordelio: For I cannot*
 “ *make a much longer Stay here, for*
 “ *fear of being discover’d; and I may*
 “ *thank these Whiskers for my Pre-*
 “ *servation this Week past, for with-*
 “ *out them I shou’d not have dar’d*
 “ *to walk the Streets.*—— But, pray,
 “ says she, *what have you done with*
 “ *my last Lover, the Sicilian Count?*
 “ *Why,* reply’d he, *I hurry’d him to*
 “ *the Vault; where he is, I believe,*
 “ *by this Time past telling Tales, and*
 “ *whither*

“ *whither this hot English Spark*
 “ *shall directly follow.*

“ On this I broke a Pane of Glas
 “ out of the Window, which was the
 “ Signal agreed on for the Governor’s
 “ Servants to rush in. I again im-
 “ mediately return’d to my Post, and
 “ found they were examining my
 “ Money. *This, says she, is of the*
 “ *same Stamp as that which we*
 “ *coin’d, and for which poor Gomez*
 “ *was wrack’d.*

“ I staid not to hear any more;
 “ but, perceiving the Servants, hasted
 “ to the other Door, from which I
 “ broke off the Lock. Finding them
 “ pretty near, I immediately join’d
 “ them, and we open’d the Chamber-
 “ Door on the Sharper and his Lady,
 “ whom I commanded them to se-
 “ cure, which they immediately did.

“ I was much surpriz’d to find the
 “ Governor tap me on the Shoulder;
 “ whom, in my Hurry, I had not
 “ perceiv’d. He demanded my Reasons
 “ for securing them, upon which I told
 “ him

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“ him all I had heard: And one of
 “ the Servants, pulling the Whiskers
 “ from *Piccarini's* Face, discover'd to
 “ us one of the greatest Villains in
 “ *Italy*.

“ As he had been often before in
 “ the Hands of Justice, the Governor
 “ knew him very well, and order'd
 “ him to be hang'd up before the
 “ Gate, which was directly executed;
 “ having first taken out of his Pockets
 “ the Keys of the Vault, from whence
 “ we freed a young Gentleman that was
 “ almost dead.

“ As for the Lady of the House,
 “ she was confin'd for Life in a
 “ Monastery of Repentants. I went
 “ afterwards to enquire for *Nicander*,
 “ but was told, He had that Morning
 “ left the City, which I myself did
 “ with all the Haste I cou'd; nor have
 “ I since met with him, 'till last Night
 “ Providence sent me timely to his
 “ Assistance.”

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

Nicander's Recovery. Cordelio, *finding a lucky Opportunity, declares his Passion for Sophia. What Reception this Declaration met with the Reader will know, if he peruses this Chapter.*

WE were all very much diverted with *Cordelio's Story*; and, a little while after, a Servant told us *Nicander* was up. We went immediately to see him, and found him pretty well. He thank'd us all, in a very polite Manner, for our Assistance, and begg'd that a Chair might be call'd to conduct him Home. We represented to him that he was not yet strong enough: But he said he found himself sufficiently recover'd, and some Affairs absolutely requir'd his Presence, so that he begg'd us to excuse him. During the Dispute the Surgeon came in,

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in, who affirm'd he might go in Safety; upon which we insisted no farther, and he departed, declaring 'twas with Reluctance he went.

During the Time of my Stay, *Cordelio* address'd me in a very warm Manner, and said several kind Things to me, which I did not dislike; tho' I took it all for Flattery, and a rallying, civil Way, common to well-bred People: Yet I secretly wish'd it might come from his Heart, tho' I then dar'd hardly to suppose it. — But he has since own'd it proceeded from a real Liking for me.

In this Manner were some Days spent, each of us secretly wishing the other an Admirer: He longing for a convenient Opportunity to disclose his Passion to me, and I to know the Truth of his seeming Addresses. Happening one Day to stray from some Company in one of the Gardens behind *Leonora's* House, of which there were three or four that were very beautiful, and striving to think on some
Plot

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whereby I might discover whether *Cordelio* sincerely lov'd me ———
 I c'd, without minding whither I
 to step into a little Summer-
 , design'd for a Retirement from
 heat of the Day, plac'd in a
 et in one of the most retir'd
 is; when, to my great Surprize,
 Ield *Cordelio* seated at a Table
 g, who rose with some Con-
 fusion. I wou'd have straight retir'd,
 had he not nimbly prevented me,
 by getting between me and the Door.
 It very much frighted me to find
 myself so much in his Power. I begg'd
 him to let me go, bid him consider
 my Reputation, and what the Ladies
 wou'd say, shou'd they catch us to-
 gether. That he knew the most pre-
 valent Quality of our Sex, who take
 hold of the least Opportunity of scan-
 dalizing a Person, though their best
 Friend: And what wou'd they think
 to find me in so remote a Place, in
 Company with a Man? I told him
 nothing wou'd be a greater Torment
 to

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to me, than to afford them the least Subject for Slander.

He conjur'd me but to hear him for a Moment; and told me, That he wou'd chuse to prejudice himself in the most tender Part, rather than offend me: But, as upon my Answer depended his future Welfare, I must pardon him, if he communicated his Thoughts. He assur'd me, That he ador'd me; that he had entertain'd the sincerest Passion for me, ever since the first Day he had been blest'd with my Presence; that my Return to his Love was the greatest Happiness he cou'd wish on Earth; that he desir'd nothing so much as an Interview with me, in order to discover his Thoughts to me; that he had every Day, since our first Acquaintance, watch'd an Opportunity of laying open his Passion to me, but Fortune had now unexpectedly thrown that in his Way, which he had so long been artfully contriving, and which he had so earnestly long'd for.

It

It wou'd be needless to tell you the many Protestations he made, and the many Objections I rais'd. Let it suffice then that I inform you, after a long Dispute, I found Reasons in his Discourse, which sufficiently convinc'd me, that what he said proceeded from his Heart; and I could not avoid acknowledging, that his Words were far from displeasing me. But I knew I could not marry without my Mother's Consent, 'till I was of Age: Yet, at the same Time, I bid him be assur'd, that I esteem'd no Man so much as himself.

With this I broke suddenly from him, he having hitherto held me, and hasten'd to find the Company, from whom I had wander'd; but was now much more alert and sprightly than when I had left them. This proceeded from the pleasing Satisfaction I had in thinking, that the only Man lov'd me, for whom I had a Regard; and that I had found an Opportunity so favourable to let him know that I

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did not dislike him: For it was my Notion of a Lover, that if he sincerely regarded a Woman, and found his Passion return'd, he would wait Years for her, and never look on any other with an amorous Eye. Though I had often heard of Men pretending an Affection, for no other End than to ruin the Fool so credulously fond, yet I look'd upon *Cordelio* as a Person of more Honour, than to be guilty of so mean a Dissimulation; and indeed I was not deceiv'd—— Though had I then known the Falshood of the World, so well as I do now, I should not so easily have given Way to a Passion; which, in the End, ruin'd me as well as my unfortunate Lover.

I was now pretty easy, and my Nights were no more disturb'd with broken Dreams. I found myself much better, and more light than I had been since the first Time I had seen *Cordelio*: And, as I expected within a Year's Time to be of Age, I resolv'd

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solv'd then to marry him, and try to recover my Fortune from my Mother.

I indulg'd myself in these Thoughts, and indeed they afforded me no little Pleasure. Had it been the Will of Heaven that I should have continu'd in this State, I should have deem'd myself extremely happy: But there is no one living can expect a true Tranquillity in this World, and my Misfortunes were yet to come.

C H A P. VI.

Cordelio *serenades* Sophia, and the *Consequences of it.*

MY Mother, whose Character I have already given, was visited by many Persons, who address'd her in a very amorous Way. Some of them

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them in Reality coust'd her, but 'twas for the Sake of her Riches; they car'd not in the least for her Person; any farther than it entitl'd them to her Fortune! And others pretended it, for No other Reason, than to divert themselves a little with an old Woman's Folly. To these were added a third Sort, who stil'd themselves her Friends. These visit'd her to spend an Evening, and take a Bottle in private with her; and though they were not so numerous as the others, yet they were the greatest Destroyers.

They all flatter'd her Vanity so much as to make her think herself young again, and as handsome as ever. Nothing gave me more Pleasure, than to think I enjoy'd a Suitor more faithful than any of her's, without her knowing any Thing of the Matter: For had she but once even conjectur'd it, it would have given her a vast deal of Umbrage, and created me no small Uneasiness.

But,

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But, alas! my Delight was but of a short Continuance: For she discover'd that, which I wish'd above all Things conceal'd from her Knowledge, by a Serenade that was given before her House; by whom, she could not tell. It was by *Cordelio*; who, not thinking my Mother would be awake at that Time of Night, resolv'd to entertain me with an Air he himself had compos'd, and had for that Purpose prepar'd some good Hands.

My Mother having been that Day unfortunately ill, had not drank so deep, and therefore did not sleep so soundly as usual. She listen'd to the Musick with a great deal of Pleasure, but rose when she heard them begin a Love-Song, that she might hear it the more distinctly, looking on it to be directed to herself. Judge her Disappointment, when she heard *Sophia* three or four Times nam'd, and found it was design'd to compliment me. She shut down her Window

Window in a Rage, and retir'd to her Bed with a strong Resolution to be fully reveng'd on me——And from this I date the *Æra* of my Misfortunes.

The next Morning, when I would have gone out, my Mother stopp'd me, and bid me stay at Home; saying, I had no Business out, that she knew of, unless it was to thank my screaming Lover for his Caterwauling under her Window last Night, and depriving her of her Rest; and that I might find some Employment in the House, that was fitter for me than to be gadding after every nonsensical Fellow: But if she heard any more of their serenading near her House, she would take Care to reward them for their Pains.

Her Manner of speaking to me at first very much surpriz'd me; but when she mention'd the Serenade, I guess'd what was my Fault. I answer'd her in the most submissive Manner possible, and made use of
every

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every Argument that I thought could contribute to excuse me. I affirm'd I knew not who gave the Serenade, and strove to perswade her I was innocent, but all in vain. My Mother was extremely positive, told me she believ'd not a Word I said, and indeed she was for once very much in the right; so I was oblig'd to rest contented, as I knew it would more harm than help me, to contradict her any farther.

My being detain'd would not have vex'd me so much as it did, had *Cor-delio* but known the Reason of my Absence; and I thought it would be an Alleviation to my Grief, if I could but find a Way to let him know it.

There was in the House a young Woman who had been bred up with me, and always us'd to attend me, and she was the only Company my Mother would now permit me to see; for if any of my old Acquaintances came to enquire for me, I was assuredly

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assuredly deny'd to them, and depriv'd of the Satisfaction of their Company.

As I knew *Letitice* (for so was my Maid call'd) to be a Girl of Discretion, I chose her to carry my Letter to *Cordelio*; resolving to make her my Confidant, and let her into the whole Secret of my Amour; For as I thought I was now really in Love, I look'd upon myself to be in a Condition as deplorable as those Damsels, whom I had so often met with in Romance detain'd in Prison, far from their absent Knights, by some vile Enchanter; and thought a Confidant as necessary to me, as an Esquire to the grieving Knight. Having made her promise Fidelity, and to swear to observe an inviolable Secrecy, I receiv'd her for my Confidant: And indeed the Girl having always lov'd me, was very ready to oblige me.

I then sat down and wrote a long Letter to *Cordelio*, wherein I set forth the Reasons why I had not seen him

so long since; and in it gave him an ample Account of my Mother, her Character and Temper, not forgetting her severe Disappointment in finding the Serenade design'd to compliment me, and not herself, as she at first expected, and the Hardships I had since endur'd on that Account; with the terrible Injunction laid on me next Morning, not to stir out of the House. I then told him, That the only Means possible for us to meet for a long while, was to get acquainted with some of my Mother's Croneys, who should introduce him to my Mother as a Suitor, under which inviolable Character he might expect a good Reception; that as I had Liberty to range all over the House and Gardens, which were none of the smallest, we might have frequent Opportunities of meeting, without her knowing or suspecting any Thing, as she was yet ignorant who it was that gave the Serenade.

H

Having

Having folded this up, without any Direction or Name, and enclos'd it in a Note to *Leonora*, wherein I requested her to deliver it to her Cousin, I gave it to my newly-entertain'd Confidant, with a strict Charge to deliver it to none but *Leonora*. In both these I alter'd my Hand in such a Manner, as it would not be easily known, should my Confidant have been in my Mother's Interest, and deliver'd it to her, instead of the Person to whom it was directed, so that I might with Safety have deny'd it; though I need not have entertain'd such a Suspicion of her, for she was truly honest.

She waited 'till my Mother call'd her to send her about Business. When she return'd, she told me, She was fortunate enough to meet with her; that she promis'd to obey the Contents of the Note, but could not answer it then; that if she went again on the Morrow to *Leonora's*, she would be sure to have it prepar'd; and with this clapping a Guinea into her Hand,
desir'd

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desir'd her to make haste Home, lest her Mistress should believe she stay'd too long.

The next Morning she went according to *Leonora's* Appointment, where she met with *Cordelio*; who deliver'd her a Letter, which she immediately brought me. This I instantly perus'd, and in it he inform'd me, That my Letter had given him the greatest Joy imaginable; that nothing gave him more Uneasiness, than to think it was through him I had been depriv'd of my Liberty; that he would be sure to obey me in every Thing I desir'd; and bid me, at the same Time, be certain that he should never, whilst he liv'd, regard any one so affectionately as me.

He told me moreover, That he happen'd to know one of my Mother's Acquaintance, whom he design'd to work on, according to my Advice, with all Speed possible, that he might the sooner have the Pleasure of beholding me.

These

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These were the Contents of the Letter which *Lettice* brought me ; and though it reviv'd me a little, yet I earnestly long'd that it's Contents might be fullfill'd. Two Days I waited for him, without any Sign of his coming, which made me exceedingly uneasy. I often reflected, that Absence might perhaps have blotted me from his Remembrance, or that he was diverted from thinking of me by some Person more worthy of his Esteem ; or, it might be, of greater Wealth, or more Beauty.—Beauty ! no——It must be more 'Riches. Fortune has made him false to me ; and, for the sake of more Money, he quite forgets me.

I believe no Woman ever tormented herself so much, without any Foundation or Reason. But Pride at last triumph'd, and I determin'd that he could not place his Esteem more worthily, than on me : That he was too generous to forsake me on the account of Fortune : Besides, his Declarations

clarations of Love were accompany'd with too much Warmth for a Dissembler. So I at last concluded, that had not some unavoidable Accident detain'd him, I should have seen him sooner.

The third Day ended all my Fears; for, about Noon, *Lettice* gave me Notice that he was below with Mrs. *Winelove*, one of my Mother's Boon-Companions. I desir'd her to stand in his Way as he was going out, to receive any Message he would leave. In about two Hours *Lettice* return'd with a Letter in her Hand, which she told me he had privately convey'd to her, as he went out. Here he inform'd me, That as Mrs. *Winelove* was that Day to introduce him to my Mother, he could not be blest'd with the Sight of me: But that under Pretence of great Respect for my Mother, he would be sure to come, ere she was at Leisure in the Morning, and hop'd the Happiness of entertaining me in one of the Gardens; that

that then he should be capable of enjoying some Degree of Happiness, in once again conversing with the charming and only Object of his Love, after so long an Absence : And sure, if I consider'd what Pain Absence is to Lovers, if I regarded his future Quiet, I would not fail the Appointment of one who esteem'd me more than Life, and would do so whilst *Cordelio*.

This was the Substance of what he wrote ; and, as it did not displease me, so I resolv'd to answer the Summons.

The next Morning I went to walk in the Garden, and waited a little while for *Cordelio*. He was not long ere he made his Appearance, in Company with some of my Mother's Visitors. It being an Hour before her usual Time of rising, as soon as I was convinc'd he saw me, I went down a different Walk. He soon after follow'd me, and I had the Pleasure of spending Half an Hour in his Company, without being in the least observ'd.

Here

Sophia Shakespear. 71

Here he express'd the Joy my Condescension gave him in such a Manner, that I could not help acknowledging how agreeable this Interview was to me. He again renew'd his Protestations of Love with great Warmth; and most tenderly describ'd the Uneasiness he had labour'd under, on Account of not hearing from me in two Days after the Serenade: But nothing gave him greater Pleasure, than the Lines I sent to him by *Lettice*. That it troubled him excessively to find he was the unhappy, unknowing Cause of my Confinement: Yet his Trouble was somewhat alleviated, to find he was so happy as to be sometimes in my Thoughts; but then the Impossibility there was of his relieving me gave him fresh Pangs. That having the good Fortune to be acquainted with one of my Mother's Companions, he hasten'd to enquire for her, but was not lucky enough to meet with her that Day. That the next Morning he found her at Home, and told her he had a great
Passion

Passion for my Mother ; that, thro' her Means, he could be introduc'd to her, and he begg'd her earnestly to stand his Friend. To this she at first strongly objected ; but a Purse of Guineas soon mollify'd her so far as to promise her Assistance, and use her Interest with my Mother in his Favour.

Accordingly the next Day she introduc'd him to her, as a near Relation of her own, who had a great Desire to be acquainted with her, as well as to communicate something to her that nearly concern'd herself. That my Mother seem'd very well pleas'd ; and told him, If he had any Thing to say to her in private, she would be glad of his Company the next Morning, when he might opportunely disclose his Thoughts.

He told me, That he resolv'd to declare his Passion in such a Manner, as should seem to proceed from Respect, rather than any Thing else ; and to be her constant Visitor, under Pretence of the assiduous Lover ; But, in Reality,
to

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to have the Happiness of spending a little of his Time with me.

I ask'd him, Why he had not chosen to discover himself to my Mother, to be (what he really was) a Cousin of her Friend *Leonora's*? But he answer'd me, That as my Mother had a great Suspicion of me, and as I us'd to go thither very often, she would have soon found out his Deceit, and put it entirely out of his own, or *Leonora's* Power to relieve him. That as my Mother did not suspect any Imposition from her dear Friend, Mrs. *Winelove*, she could never doubt his Sincerity, whilst recommended by her as her Relation; for that, under that Cloak, he had great Hopes of Success.

When he had ended, I took Leave of him, very well satisfy'd with his Conduct and Behaviour, judging it to be near the Time of my Mother's rising; and, having appointed the Place we were now in, as being the privatest, for our future Meetings, I retir'd to my
I Chamber,

Chamber, without being taken any Notice of.

I met him there again the next Day, where he gave me an Account of the Success he had with my Mother, which was this——Having declar'd an Affection, in the same Manner he had design'd; my Mother answer'd, That at present she had no Thoughts of Marriage; but, if she could meet with a Person to her Liking, she knew not what she might do: Therefore she hop'd he would not make himself a Stranger; but visit her as often as Opportunity would permit.

He came hither almost every Morning; and, if any Thing fell out that hinder'd our meeting, as if my Mother chanc'd to be up earlier than usual, then *Lettice* was detach'd to stand in the Way, and inform him of the Misfortune: And she got very well by it, for she never deliver'd him a Message from me, but she was sure of a Piece of Gold; and, to say the Truth, she deserv'd it.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

Mrs. Shakespear finds Cordelio and Sophia in the Garden. She discovers their Amour — dismisses Cordelio in a Rage — and locks up Sophia.

CERTAINLY no Body was ever happier than I, for that short Time which we spent together: And I should have thought myself truly blest, could I have enjoy'd my *Cordelio's* Company in this Manner 'till our Marriage, which I judg'd to be near at Hand; since, in about three Months I should have been at Age, and of Consequence out of my Mother's Power, when I hop'd to secure him mine for ever.

But, alas! the Blessing was too great, and Heaven thought proper to disappoint me, in order to teach me a little Humility: For I was too guilty
of

of a Fault, often charg'd to our Sex ; that is, Vanity. Indulgent Nature had bestow'd on me some Charms, which I fail'd not to improve ; and indeed, they made me not a little proud : But I have often since wish'd to have been created the ugliest of Women, rather than to be subjected to those Ills, to which my small Stock of Beauty had frequently render'd me incident. Had I consider'd that the best of People met with Disappointments, how could I have even expected my Wishes to be fulfill'd, who had never done any Thing to deserve it !

Fate sometimes takes Pleasure in seeming to promote our Designs, to bring them to a Ripeness, render them fit for an immediate Execution, and then frustrates us on a sudden, in a Place where we least expected Opposition. This was exactly my Case ; for, when I had for near ten Months conducted my Amour with all imaginable Secrecy, and in such a Manner as it scarce requir'd any Thing but a Parson,

Parson, it was at once ended. — I found, by a sudden Gust of Fortune, my Schemes surprizingly travers'd, my Designs laid open to my Mother, and all my Secrets at once betray'd !

Spending my Time one Morning with my dear *Cordelio* in the Green-House, as I usually did, (not that I allow'd him any Familiarities, but by my Presence and Discourse still to keep alive the little Flame my Beauty had kindled in his Heart: For, alas! the first Sight of him had rais'd in me one that was unextinguishable) my Mother rising soon after I had left the House, which was earlier than she was wont, and having some Instructions to give me in regard to the domestic Affairs, went to my Chamber to look for me ; where, not finding me, and enquiring of the Servants whither I was gone, some of them directed her to the Garden. She came soon to seek me ; and, spurr'd by my evil Genius, fell into that Path which led directly to the Place wherein

wherein *Cordelio* and I were seated, comforting ourselves with the Thoughts of my being soon freed from the Restraints under which I now labour'd; of entering his Arms, and being loosen'd from the Government of an haughty, self-assuming Mother, who knew no such Thing as Nature, and whose greatest Favourite was Pride.

This harsh Manner of speaking of my Mother cannot but surprize the Reader; but yet, if he considers the Hardships and Misfortunes to which her Vanity and Imprudence subjected me, I cannot think he will blame me.

My Mother, as she approach'd us, hearing the Voices of two Persons in earnest Discourse, tempted by Curiosity to know who we were, and what was the Subject of our Talk, unfortunately heard the most of a Speech wherein she was often nam'd, and that not very respectfully.

She had not Patience to let us finish our Conversation; but, with a Fury in her Looks which 'tis impossible for me
to

to describe, she rated him for his Treachery, and me for Insolence in daring to countenance a false Villain, and thinking to blind her with a Pretence of his being in Love with her. She ran on thus for a good while; 'till, having talk'd herself out of Breath, and being quite spent with Rage, she sunk down upon one of the Seats, whilst we were so surpriz'd we could not utter a Syllable, but stood like Statues staring at one another.

At length, having drawn Breath, she upbraided *Cordelio* with his Perfidiousness; calling him by the most opprobrious Names, commanding him to quit her House that Moment, nor ever more dare to shew his Face within her Doors: And, as for his Mistress, she would warrant he should never see her again.—Then, turning to me, rated me again pretty heartily; and, taking me by the Shoulder, drove me into the House before her, telling me she would allay my Flame; leaving *Cordelio* behind

hind in the Garden, so astonish'd that he scarcely knew where he was.

When my Mother had got me into the House, she order'd two Rooms to be prepar'd, up two Pair of Stairs ; which was soon done, and to them was I sent immediately.

That the Reader may have the better Idea of the comfortable Life I was to lead, whilst thus immur'd, I shall crave Leave to describe the agreeable Situation of my Apartments. The Room, which was to serve as a Dining-Room, look'd into a little Garden, wherein were some Herbs and Flowers that my Mother regarded particularly. Of this she always kept the Key ; nor was any one ever admitted into it, but some of her greatest Favourites. Beyond it were some neighbouring Gardens, which had very little in them either curious or elegant ; and consequently could afford no Pleasure to the Sight, which was bounded by an old spacious Church, that rose a good deal higher than my Windows. On one
Side,

Side, I had a small Glance of the Street ; and, on the other, a distant View of those Walks, wherein I had spent so many agreeable Mornings with my dear *Cordelio*.

Here, to my no small Mortification, I beheld my Mother's Levee, sauntering away their Time with great Pleasure, in a fine Morning ; whilst I, whom a Person would have thought should have partook of her highest Indulgence, was depriv'd of a Pleasure the least of them enjoy'd, and that without deserving such Usage. This Room led into another, which was appointed for my Bed-Chamber ; and this too was as commodiously adapted as the other, both for Pleasure and Repose. The Windows open'd into a Yard, wherein was kept a Coach and Horses for my Mother's Use. The Prospect here was bounded by Stables. In the Yard were kept Ducks, Geese, and other tame Fowl, for the Use of the House ; whose different Notes, you may be sure, afforded not the most
K entertaining

entertaining Musick. There was likewise a large Dog, who was a little too quick of Apprehension to let me have much Rest; for he would waken me by his loud Barking, at the least Thing that stirr'd: So that together with the bauling of the Grooms, and the trampling of the Horses going to Water in a Morning, certainly I had a glorious Time of it.

To compleat the unfortunate Situation of my Affairs, I was depriv'd of the Company of the only Person from whom I could expect any Comfort; that is, *Lettice*: For my Mother, observing one Day a Boy deliver her a Letter, took it from her; and, finding it came from *Cordelio*, and was design'd for me, immediately turn'd her out of Doors. A strange Servant, whom I had never before seen, was order'd to attend me; whose only Task was to clean my Room, make my Bed, bring me Victuals, and afterwards deliver the Key faithfully to my Mother. She had something ill-natur'd in her Face,
and

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and therefore I did not care much to try her Fidelity. I once ask'd her, Where was *Lettice*? She answer'd gruffly, She knew no such one. I ask'd her, If she could tell why she left my Mother? She said, She seldom troubled herself with other People's Affairs: All she knew was, there was no Servant of that Name in the House.

Notwithstanding all these Misfortunes I was patient, and comforted myself with the Time being nigh at Hand, when my dear *Cordelio* would restore me to my Liberty, without being oblig'd to my Mother: But little did I think of the many Accidents that might intervene before that Time. I thought now the greatest of my Troubles were at an End, and that nothing could hinder me from being soon blest in the Enjoyment of my belov'd Admirer. But this was the least I was to undergo.

C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

Mrs. Shakespear's Manner of Life exhausts her Fortune. She endeavours to retrieve it, by marrying Dr. Potion. His Character. He refuses to marry her. She goes to a Fortune-Teller, in order to force his Love, which is attended with unhappy Consequences.

IT is now requisite to turn back to my Mother, who is deeply interested in this Part of my Story. As she had hitherto liv'd at a great Rate, and kept open House for several Years, she had exhausted all the Fortune my Father left, together with my Ten Thousand Pounds; excepting Three Thousand Pounds, or thereabouts, without scarcely perceiving it. But she began to see her Error, when it was almost too late to retrieve it. She now began to consider

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sider how she could pay me my Fortune, which she was sure I would demand, or maintain the Grandeur she had hitherto done; and found she would never be able to do either, out of her remaining Substance: Therefore she resolv'd to fix on some one of her seeming Suitors, that might be capable of doing both.

Among the many that pretended Love to her, there was one who was deem'd immensely rich. He was a Doctor of Physick and a meer Miser; who, if he parted with but a Sixpence, though to discharge a Debt contracted with his Laundress, did it with the greatest Reluctance.

This Man visited my Mother rather for the sake of filling his Belly, than any other Motive: For Beauty he valu'd not a Straw, any farther than when it was assisting in getting him a Dinner *gratis*. Besides, he wisely consider'd, that to encrease his Family would be attended with Expence. His Name was *Potion*.

Upon

Upon this Man my Mother pitch'd, and devis'd all she could think of to noose him. She try'd him first by proposing him the Question; telling him, She lik'd him for being in the Decline of his Age, and preferr'd him to the many young Fellows he daily saw solliciting her, of whom he knew she might take her Choice, because she thought him better acquainted with the World, and knew how to prize a faithful Wife. Besides, as she was herself now growing old, she resolv'd to retrench her expensive House-Keeping, and live out the Remainder of her Days in Retirement. She knew no Body, whose Temper seem'd so exactly to suit her own, as being a careful Man; one that knew how to take care of what he got. That she had a good Fortune, and that it was not to every one's Direction she would submit it; and by this her frank Declaration he might plainly see her Regard proceeded from no irregular Desires, but an entire Liking to his Temper.

But,

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But, 'tis an ancient Saying, *'Tis hard to catch old Birds with Chaff*, which was here pretty well verify'd; for he was too cunning for her, and immediately guess'd what was her Drift. As for her Fortune, he regarded not what she said of that, for he could not think her very extravagant Way of Life could always last: Nor could he look on her pretended Love to proceed from a Sympathy in their Tempers, he being in no Respect generous, and she very profuse. He perceiv'd the true Cause of her Declaration; which was, that her Riches were at an Ebb: Therefore he resolv'd to avoid giving her a direct Answer; by telling her, His Obligations to her were very great; that he could never sufficiently thank her for the Favour she did him, in proposing so great an Happiness; that it was so sudden and unexpected that he knew not how to answer, having at present no Thoughts of Marriage; but as such advantageous Offers were not to be had every Day,

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he could not entirely refuse, nor could he yet directly accept of them.

There being some Time given him to consider, this was his Answer: For he knew, should he have flatly deny'd her, he would lose considerably, by forfeiting a good Reception in the House ever after; and, should he have consented, he knew her to be so hasty, that she would directly have urg'd the Performance.

For these Reasons, he chose a Medium; knowing he should be respected very well, whilst she hop'd any Thing from him.

My Mother often question'd him about it, but he still found some Excuse whereby he civilly evaded it. Hence my Mother inferr'd, that he suspected something of her real Circumstances, and therefore resolv'd to compel him to it, by having recourse to that which compleated the Ruin of her and her Family.

There liv'd near our House one of those pilfering Wretches, call'd by the
Vulgar,

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Vulgar, *Cunning-Men*; who impose on People, by pretending to tell them their future Actions; how to acquire Riches; the Success of any Thing they go about to undertake; with a Thousand other ridiculous Things; and who maintain'd himself very handsomely, out of his Gettings this Way.

To this Person my Mother apply'd herself, to be set in a right Way to obtain her desir'd End on the Doctor; which he pretended to, when she fee'd him with a Broad-Piece. He desired to know what it was she wanted. She told him, That she mightily admir'd the Doctor; but that, having propos'd Marriage to him, he seem'd very averse to the Offer: Therefore she depended on him, to be inform'd in what Manner her Desires could be compleated.

Having por'd over some old Books, and cast two or three odd Figures; he told her, That what she wanted could never be naturally attain'd. She then desir'd him to put her in

L some

some Way that she might bring it about; for she car'd not how it was done, so it was once done, and Ten Guineas should be his Reward when it was. He answer'd, It was very difficult; yet, if she would punctually obey his Directions, and take Care not to omit the least Article, he did not doubt her being gratify'd: But first she must set down, at large, all her Desires in a Paper, and how she would have them compleated.

The Substance of what she wrote was, what she before told him; and also, that she preferr'd a Powder, because it might be infus'd into any Thing he drank, without being readily perceiv'd. He took from her what she had set down; telling her, He must peruse it, and bid her call again in a Week, when he would have every Thing ready. She paid him another Visit at the End of the limited Time, when he deliver'd her a Paper, wherein were scrawl'd several unintelligible Characters, and *Potion* often legibly wrote.

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wrote. He made her also copy out another, in which were Rules how to conduct her Intrigue, and make use of the Powder; which was to be wrap'd in both these Papers, to give it the greater Efficacy.

These, he told her, were so well prepar'd, that if she gave them as directed they could not fail of Success. My Mother implicitly believ'd all he said, and resolv'd exactly to follow his Directions.

Among the rest, she was not to practice on the Doctor 'till the second Visit he was to pay her, after she had receiv'd the Materials. She lock'd up the Papers and Powder in her Tea-Table Drawer, which she unfortunately left open the next Morning. Being suddenly call'd out upon some Business, whilst the Doctor was at Breakfast with her, he (being a very curious Man) open'd the Papers; and, seeing his Name wrote, immediately pocketed them, in order to peruse them when more at Leisure. She did not miss them

them 'till towards Evening, when she search'd all the House for them, but to no Purpose; for they were gotten into Hands that would not easily part with them.

My Mother suspected some such Matter, and therefore the next Morning she desir'd him, with an Air of Authority, to deliver her Papers and Powder, which was to clean her Teeth. He ask'd her, Why she had made use of his Name in her Papers? She told him, That being alone the Night before, she had diverted herself with scribbling; that these were the Papers which she scribbled in; and truly she thought that 'twas enough for him to know, that he was the Object of her Meditations when absent, without depriving her of the little Things that were of no Use to him, therefore she intreated him to return them; for perhaps he had a Mind to play the Rogue, and shew them about, under Pretence that she had written to him. *I know you,* says she,

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She, to be a Wag, and apt enough to play such Tricks; out of Game. Consider, prithee, that my Writing, in the Hands of a Man, may deprive me of my good Character. But all this avail'd little. She had now a Man to deal with, who would not be trifled with. He calmly heard her out, and desir'd to speak with her in some Place less expos'd to any one's hearing.

To this she presently consented, and led him to her Chamber. He told her, He was not a Fool so old and doating, as to be blinded with her Excuses; that he knew the Characters too well, to believe them to be the Effect of her prolific Brain: Besides, they too plainly indicated the Baseness of her Intentions, and shew'd what terrible Danger he had happily escap'd, for he knew it to be a Spell design'd to be try'd on him. He assur'd her, That as the Papers were sufficient to prove to any understanding Persons her Designs, his Resolution

solution was to put the Laws in Execution against her, with the utmost Severity, as this was a Sort of Witchcraft, unless she agreed to the Conditions he propos'd; and that they were easily consented to, being but two.

C H A P. IX.

Potion, having privately taken the Fortune-Teller's Papers and Love-Powder, threatens to prosecute my Mother, unless she will comply with certain Conditions. She refuses. He applies to Justice Surety for a Warrant; on hearing which, to my inexpressible Grief, we both embark for Venice.

HIS Conditions were, That liking her very well, though not to marry her, if she would gratify this affectionate

affectionate Liking of his without the conjugal Chain, and pay him down Five Hundred Pounds, he would engage to free her from all future Apprehensions; otherwise she might expect to suffer the Punishment the Law commonly inflicts, in Cases of Witchcraft. But she only laugh'd at him; and told him, She was exceedingly surpriz'd a Man of his Sense should be so much deceiv'd, as to mistake her stupid Scrawls for Incantations.

He said no more to her at that Time, but left her abruptly, only bidding her consider of it. The next Day he return'd for an Answer, when she still deny'd it, and us'd a Thousand Artifices to divert him from his Purpose, but in vain. In short, he told her, That he had the Person who prescrib'd them to her to witness against her, that her Intentions were unnaturally to force his Love.

My Mother now found there was no good in denying it. She consider'd that to yield to his Conditions
would

would not only blaste her Character, but also deprive her of very near a Quarter of her present Subsistence, and therefore she resolv'd to have recourse to Intreaty. She begg'd him to think, That nothing, but the greatest Excess of Love, could have driven her to such an Extremity; that she would never have done it, but that she found he did not like the Match, and she could not live without him; and that she was sure a Man, of a Nature so generous as his, could never find in his Heart to ruin a weak Woman and her Family, whose greatest Fault was an over Fondness for him.

She us'd several Arguments of the same Nature, that she thought might conduce to move him, but to no Purpose. He was deaf to all she could urge in her Defence. At length he left her, saying, That since she persisted in her Obstinacy, she should hear no more from him in this pacific Manner; but that she would soon see him

him again, so as to make her wish she had accepted his Conditions.

She began now seriously to repent, for having ran into such Extravagances; and put herself, by her Imprudence, in the Power of such a pitiful Wretch: But her Fears were much augmented, as well as her Grief, when one of her old Friends came soon after to see her, in order to inform her, that *Potion* had been with her Neighbour, Justice *Surety*, that Afternoon, to obtain a Warrant against her for some Misdemeanor; which he could not then get, as the Justice was out of Town, nor would he be in Town 'till the Morrow, therefore she advis'd her to prepare herself against any Mischance that might happen. She told her, That Mr. *Soak*, the Justice's Clerk, told her of this, because he knew she was a Friend of hers; and he often us'd to divert her, over a Glass, with the many comical Cases that pass'd through their Hands.

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My

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My Mother now began, more plainly than ever, to see her Error, and the absolute Necessity there was of immediately providing for her own Safety. She straight sent for *Leonora*, whom now she look'd upon as the most prudent of her Friends. To her she laid open her Misfortunes, and made over her House and Furniture, to avoid having an Execution laid on them; begging her to dispose of them to the best Advantage, and remit the Money to her at *Venice*, whither she resolv'd to retire, and spend the Remainder of her Days with her Brother, who was a rich Merchant there.

There happen'd to be a Ship in the River consign'd to my Uncle; and my Mother, informing the Master who she was, had a Cabin immediately prepar'd for our Reception. I knew nothing of all this 'till *Leonora* waken'd me, which was very early in the Morning. I was over-joy'd and surpriz'd to see her: But how was I astonish'd, when she related the Things that had happen'd during

during my Confinement ; and desir'd me to pack up my Things to embark for *Venice* along with my Mother, in a Ship which was ready to sail, and only waited for us !

I ask'd, If *Cordelio* knew this surprising Change in my Fortune ? She answer'd, He did not ; that some Affairs had requir'd his Presence in the Country ; but assur'd me, that his being depriv'd of the Sight of me had not lessen'd his Affection, for that he lov'd me as passionately as ever, and would never marry any one but myself.

I then told her, In the Condition I was now, and to which my Mother had reduc'd me, I no longer merited his Regard, as not having a sufficient Fortune for a Person of his Birth and Estate ; that I had resolv'd never to marry any Man but *Cordelio*, which it was now out of my Power to do, consistent with my own Sentiments ; and that, for his sake, I determin'd to live a single Life. I conjur'd her to beg him

him to fix his Affection on some Person more happy, and more worthy his Esteem; since we were never likely to be happy in each other, and he could have no Hopes of me, who was now ruin'd by an imprudent, unfortunate Mother.

I would have proceeded, had we not been interrupted by a Servant; who inform'd me, That my Things were sent aboard, and the Captain of the Ship and my Mother waited below Stairs for me only.

This Message oblig'd me to take my Leave sooner than I could have wish'd. We tenderly embrac'd one another, and both wept very bitterly. *Leonora*, for the Loss of an old Friend; and I, for leaving my native Country, losing my Lover, my much-esteem'd *Leonora*, my Friends and Acquaintance, and every Thing that was dear to me.

The End of the FIRST BOOK.

T H E

THE
HISTORY

OF
Sophia Shakespear.

BOOK II.

CHAP. I.

A very short Chapter.

WE fet Sail with a fair Wind ;
and, after a short Passage, arriv'd at *Venice*. We were conducted, in the Ship's Boat, to Mr. *Wealthy's* House :

House: And, indeed, I could not but admire the Stateliness of the Buildings on each Side the River, which far exceeded any I had ever seen in *England*. But, alas! these afforded me but little Pleasure, since I possess'd not that which I wish'd most for, the Company of my dear *Cordelio*. My Uncle's House was very handsome; and, tho' not extraordinary there, would in *London* have been look'd on as a noble Building.

The next Day, as our Effects were lowering out of the Ship into the Boat, unhappily a Trunk, wherein my Mother had deposited most of her Money and Jewels, broke from the Rope, just over the Ship's Side, and tumbled into the Sea between it and the Boat, nor did we ever after hear of it.

All the rest of our Things were safely brought to my Uncle's. My Mother was exceedingly afflicted for the Loss of her Trunk; but her Brother, who appear'd to be (as he really was) a good-natur'd Gentleman, bid her
not

not be troubled about it ; for he assur'd her, while he liv'd, she should never want for any Thing in his Power, and desir'd her to command his House as tho' it was her own : And added, That if what he had promis'd did not content her, and she should leave him the next Day, he would present her with double the Value of what she had lost. This, in some Measure, alleviated her Grief, and appeas'd her for the present Time. He likewise express'd a great Regard for me ; and promis'd, if I did not wilfully offend him, he would provide very handsomly for me.

Mr. *Wealthy* was my Mother's only Brother. He was a Gentleman of a polite Behaviour, perfectly well-bred ; and comely, for his Age, being about Fifty-five. He was some Years older than my Mother, but was endu'd with sundry excellent Qualifications, and had nothing of the Moroseness which is too common with aged Persons. He us'd every Means in his Power to render our Lives agreeable ;
and

and hardly ever went out, but he brought us some Present at his Return.

He had buried his Wife about fourteen Years before our Arrival; and his Daughter, the only Child he ever had, died about two Years after her Mother. As he was prodigiously fond of Mrs. *Wealthy*, her Loss, together with that of his Daughter, very greatly afflicted him, and he determin'd never to marry again; so that we had the absolute Command of his House, and every Thing in it.

I now led a Life that might have been call'd happy, had not Love reign'd so potently in my Heart: But, alas! nothing pleas'd me in *Cordelio's* Absence. Every Thing appear'd insipid.—In short, I liv'd in a Manner that could not but be very agreeable to a disengag'd Person. I was present at every Publick Diversion and Entertainment, in Company with my Mother and Uncle; yet I neither
fought

sought new Acquaintance, or new Conquests. My first Passion was too deeply engraven on my Heart, to allow even a Thought of Comfort from another.

C H A P. II.

Mr. Wealthy takes Mrs. Shakespear and Sophia to see the Publick Entry of a Venetian Nobleman. They admire its Magnificence. Their Gondola was over-set. — Sophia meets with a very extraordinary Adventure.

A Venetian Senator having marry'd a very great Lady in some other Part of *Italy*, was to make a grand Entry into *Venice* along with his Lady, on the River, with a numerous and splendid Attendance. My Uncle said, As this was an uncommon

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mon Sight to us, as well as to most of the Inhabitants, such Entries being seldom or never heard of, he would give us a Gondola for our Entertainment. This he accordingly did, and would have attended us himself, but that some particular Affairs call'd him else-where.

We took our Gondola on the Day appointed, and set out in order to see this extraordinary Sight. The Entry was indeed very magnificent, and the Bands of Musick perform'd so admirably, that they could not but charm the most insensible Auditors. The River was cover'd with Gondolas, which were full of People; whose rich Dresses, and the Reflexion of the Sun, whose Beams shone very bright, could not but dazzle the Eyes, turn them which Way you would: In short, all was Splendor.

We had lain by, that we might take the more satisfactory View; and we were so lost in Admiration, that did not perceive a Gondola, much larger

larger than ours, running foul of us; which came against us with such a Shock, that it soon rous'd us out of our pleasing Lethargy, nor could all the Art of the Gondoliers hinder it from driving on us a second Time.

I fainted away after the first Shock, nor did I recover for near an Hour after; when, to my great Surprise, I found myself in a strange Room, with Attendants about me entirely unknown, but who seem'd there on Purpose to wait on me: At length a Man very richly dress'd, whom I had not before seen, rose from a Chair whereon he had been sitting by my Bedside; and, beckoning to the Servants to retire, which they immediately did, approach'd me—— But think how great was my Astonishment, when he came nearer, to find him to be *Cordelio*! *Tell me*, cry'd I, *where am I? In the Hands of one*, answer'd he, *who esteems you more than Life; whose greatest Torture was your being torn from him, and who is now re-*

*solv'd never again to part with you. Alas! reply'd I, why do you follow a Wretch, who was never born to be happy? One who is unworthy your Notice. I must indeed own, when I was Heiress to a Fortune of Ten Thousand Pounds; I had a Passion for Cordelio, and thought myself a Match fit for him: But now, reduc'd to the State of a Dependant on another's Good-will — a perfect Beggar — How should I think a Man of his Estate would harbour even a Thought of me, except it were to work my Ruin? No! it can never be; for I can never be happy. O leave me, my Cordelio; leave me — since I was never destin'd to be bless'd with you; restore me to my grieving Mother, and leave me to my unhappy Fate. What! reply'd he, and am I then indifferent to you? O! hapless Time! I thought my Sophia never could forget me! Her, I am sure, I never could! — You bid me fly hence, and leave you. No, my Sophia, sooner
would*

Sophia Shakespear. 109

would I give up all I am 'worth,
than quit thee, who art more precious
to me than the richest Gem.— But
wherefore do I spend my Breath in
vain? Absence has eras'd me from
your Memory, and you no more regard
me. Constancy is a Virtue so uncom-
mon, that you shun me as a Monster;
and I am hated for my Truth by her,
in whom alone my Life— my Happi-
ness—is center'd.

Think not, answer'd I, my Cordelio,
so harshly of me. I love you still; and,
I call Heaven to Witness, can never
love another. But if Fate has ap-
pointed I should be unhappy, why
should I strive to make another so?
Then leave me to my Ills; for how
can you expect ever to be happy with
her, whose only Portion is Poverty?
O my Sophia! reply'd he, consider well
what 'tis you now request! No less
than the utter Ruin of one who al-
ways must adore you. Yet, though
you can compel me to forsake you,
you'll see me end my Pangs and Life
toget-

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together. — Why do you mention Riches? Think you then I courted you for your Fortune? No! by my Soul, Sophia, without a Portion, is as dear—nay dearer to me, than when reckon'd the rich Merchant's Daughter. Harbour not such Thoughts of poor Cordelio. — If you can have Confidence still in me, fly from this Place—Talk not of your Mother; she never shew'd the least Regard for your Well-fare, and therefore your Flight cannot affect her. We will direct our Course to Geneva, and there be join'd beyond the Power of Man to separate us.

But to what Purpose would it be to relate all the Arguments he urg'd to make me go, wherein he express'd himself with all the Fire Love is capable of producing in the Heart of Man? Let it suffice to tell you, I at last consented; having made him promise to write to my Mother, and my tender Uncle, whom I was indeed sorry to leave, to inform them where I was, and how I had dispos'd

Sophia Shakespear. III

pos'd of myself, which he afterwards exactly perform'd.

From thence, in two Days, we set out; and, after a Journey of a Month long, arriv'd at *Geneva*. We spent some small Time in most of the remarkable Places which lay in our Way, and were marry'd the Day after our Arrival.

C H A P. III.

Cordelio's Story.

• **H**ERE having some Time to rest, I begg'd him to inform me what it was brought him to *Venice*. He told me, Three Days after my Departure he arriv'd in Town; where, repairing to *Leonora*, after his usual Manner, to enquire concerning me, she told him I was well, and still lov'd him; but then he could not see

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me, I was so closely watch'd. He said, He would scale the Windows next Night out of the Court-Yard, as he had engag'd to his Interest one of the Grooms; and, if I lov'd him, he doubted not but I would go with him.

Leonora seem'd to approve his Resolution. He then went to a neighbouring Coffee-House; where, to his great Surprise, he heard my Mother was gone, no Body knew why or whither. On this he enquir'd of the Groom; who could tell him no more than that he had been discharg'd by *Leonora*, his Mistress and Family having retir'd none knew whither, and that Doctor *Potion* had been since in the House. On this he went to *Leonora*; and, having blam'd her for the Trick put on him, begg'd to know if I had left no Message for him. To this *Leonora* rejoin'd exactly my own Words: That I entreated him
 “ to fix his Affection on some Person
 more happy, and more worthy his
 “ Esteem;

“ Esteem; since we were never likely
 “ to be happy in each other, and
 “ he could have no Hopes of me,
 “ who was now ruin’d by an im-
 “ prudent, unfortunate Mother.”

He had not Patience to search into
 the Particulars, but beseech’d *Leonora*
 to inform him whither I was gone,
 yet all in vain. She said, She would
 never discover it, because she had
 promis’d Secrecy. On this he told
 her, He was resolv’d to travel, and
 never to return without me; and at
 length she so far satisfy’d him, as to
 inform him, I was gone into a Part of
Italy.

He straight set out, had pass’d thro’
 most of the petty States of *Switzer-*
land and *Italy*; and having, without
 hearing of me, enquir’d all the Way,
 went at last to *Rome*, where nothing
 was so much talk’d of as the grand
 Entry, which Signior *L*—— was to
 make in *Venice* with his Lady. Hither
 then he repair’d; and, in the Midst
 of the Entry, heard some Body
 O shriek

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shriek not unlike me. He started from musing, I being the Subject, and perceiv'd a Gondola just over-set, and some Ladies fall into the Water. He immediately, out of Compassion, leapt in, and took up the first Person he could lay hold on. The other Ladies were likewise taken up, many Persons having jump'd in to save them; but, having rais'd me in his Arms, he was fill'd with Astonishment, and seeing the rest of my Company were not hurt, he carried me off.

C H A P. IV.

Cordelio and Sophia go to Paris. They embark for England. They are attack'd by Robbers, and Cordelio is murder'd.

HAVING spent two Months here to rest ourselves, we set out for *Paris*; where having liv'd a Year.

Year and a Half, view'd *Verfailles*,
Marli, *Fontainbleau*, and all Places
 that were any Way curious, we re-
 solv'd to set out for *London*; but
 stopp'd for two or three Days, in
 order to pay another Visit to *Ver-*
failles, to see the Water-Works play,
 for the Entertainment of some Persons
 of great Distinction.

The next Day we set out for *Lon-*
don; and, in a Week, arriv'd at *Calais*.
 We then embark'd aboard the Packet,
 and arriv'd, after a Voyage of nine
 Hours, at *Dover*. Here we rested for
 two Days at the House of a Gentle-
 man, an Acquaintance of *Cordelio's*.

I thought now that Fortune had
 been weary of persecuting me, and
 that I should have spent the Rest of
 my Life in Peace. But this was only
 some Days Respite, for my Misfortunes
 soon grew more grievous than ever.
 We had not travell'd above twenty
 Miles from *Dover*, when two Men
 rode out of a Bye-Road, and pass'd
 close by us. One of them turning short
 on

on my Husband, presented a Pistol at him, and bid him deliver: But he, with his Whip, struck the Pistol out of his Hand, and shot him with one of his own Pistols, which he carry'd in his Holsters. The other seeing his Companion hurt, fir'd a Blunderbuss, and shot *Cordelio* thro' the Body; and being again shot with the remaining Pistol by the wounded Fellow, he drop'd from his Horse, as did the Villain whom he had wounded, within three or four Yards of him.

The remaining Highwayman, seeing both fall, immediately dismounted, and rifled his Comrade's Pockets as well as *Cordelio's*; and, hearing some People approach, he instantly rode off.

During the Skirmish, I had retir'd behind a Hedge; and, on seeing the Robber depart, I came out at the same Time that three Gentlemen came up, well mounted and arm'd. We all together went up to the Body of *Cordelio*, which was stretch'd out on the Ground.

To

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To them I told my Story; upon which two pursu'd the Villain, and the third stay'd with me, of whose Face methought I had some slight Notion; though my Concern was then so great, that I scarcely heeded him. Not seeing much Blood about *Cordelio*, I was in Hopes that he was only in a fainting Fit, and might recover. I immediately communicated my Thoughts to the Gentleman, who was an elderly Man. He search'd his Wounds, and told me it might be so.

In a little Time the two other Gentlemen return'd, and told me they had rais'd the Country in Pursuit of the Robber; but, at the same Time, that they were afraid he was too well mounted to be speedily overtaken. And indeed their Words prov'd true; for he escap'd this Time, but soon after was taken for some other Robbery and hang'd, before which he confess'd this Fact.

The

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The Gentlemen had brought with them a Horse-Litter, in which they laid the Body of *Cordelio*, to convey him to the next Town. But how were my Sorrows encreas'd when, on our Arrival, they inform'd me he was quite dead! — Words cannot express the Lamentations I made; nor is it possible to conceive my Grief, for the Loss of my dear *Cordelio*. The Gentlemen strove to console me, and promis'd to assist me in any Thing that lay in their Power — but nothing could give me Comfort.

To enhance my Misfortunes, I had but Ten Guineas in the World, which by great good Luck I had kept in my own Pocket; nor did I know what to do, or where to turn me: And it would be in vain to expect any Thing from *Cordelio's* Heir (for he had Eight Hundred Pounds *per Annum*) as I could not prove myself his Wife.

C H A P.

CHAP. V.

Sophia is greatly afflicted at the Death of Cordelio. A Person desires to speak with her, whose Presence prodigiously shocks her. His Name and Business.

MY Sorrow was so great all Night, that I enjoy'd not the least Repose; and, in the Morning, I was in a violent Fever. It was yet early, when a Servant came up and told me that a Gentleman desir'd to speak with me. As I guess'd it to be one of those who had Yesterday us'd me so courteously, I desir'd he might be shewn up; and I found I had not been mistaken, for it was the elderly Gentleman who had staid with me the Day before on the Road. He desir'd to know how I did? To which I reply'd, I found myself so ill, that I hop'd I should never recover it.

He

He told me, I should not afflict myself so abundantly, for it was the Will of Heaven, who had sent this Trouble perhaps to try my Patience, and that I should bear it like a Christian. He then inform'd me, He had sent the Body of *Cordelio* up to *London*, to the Person who was to succeed him in his Estate, with an Account of his Death, that he might be interr'd in a Manner suitable to his Quality.

At length he ask'd me, If I remember'd ever to have seen him? I answer'd, That I had a slight Idea of him, yet could not tell who he was. *My Name*, says he, *is* *Potion*. — At this I started. — *Alas!* said I, *when will my Misfortunes end!* *Was it not enough that I should lose my dearest Husband, but I must also fall into the Hands of a Wretch, to whom I owe my Ruin!*

Here I became so weak that I fainted away.

He

He having brought me to myself, I would have again exclaim'd, had he not prevented me, by begging of me to give him Time to speak. Nothing, says he, *ever touch'd me more, than the moving Situation in which I found you Yesterday; and I could not but look upon myself to be the unhappy Cause of the Pangs I saw you then endure: For tho' your Trouble was so great that you did not know me, yet I remember'd you very well. How often, since your Flight, has it griev'd me to think, that I could blame myself as the fatal Cause of it; and that I should be so foolish as to attempt to revenge me on a Woman's Weakness; who acted the Part she did, perhaps, thro' the Violence of her Passion? How often since have I wish'd that it might lye in my Power to assist her, or some of her Family, in Reparation for my Fault; and gracious Heaven, knowing the Sincerity of my Heart, has at length vouchsaf'd to hear my Prayer, and grant me what*

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I so earnestly desir'd. If any one ever felt Satisfaction I do it at this Minute, in finding an Opportunity of so happily compleating my Wishes: And, Madam, the better to shew you the Truth of my Intentions, be assur'd that whilst Potion lives, you shall never want a Friend.

Your dear Leonora has left London, in Search of you and your Mother; and, as perhaps you have no one you can truly call your Friend, make my House your Asylum. Whilst I live you shall never want any Thing that may contribute to your Satisfaction and Pleasure, in order to attone for the Wrongs done you, thro' your Mother, by me. I have a Niece, who lives in the House with me, and who is no Way disagreeable. With her you may spend the Time, and enjoy the Pleasures of any Diversion you fancy. I shall leave you to consider what I have said; and, in two or three Hours, shall call on you to breakfast with me. You need be under no Uneasiness on Account of the other Gentlemen, that were with us Yesterday. They were Country Squirrels,

'Squires, who knew you not, with whom I fell in for the sake of Company, and who are this Morning departed very early to pursue their Journey. I once again take my Leave, and beg you'll compose yourself to Sleep a little, for you seem much to require it.

On this he went out of the Room, without giving me Time to reply. I now began to deliberate on what he had propos'd; and, as I look'd upon it to be void of Dissimulation, and to be utter'd with the greatest Sincerity, I resolv'd to accept of it, at least 'till I could take an Opportunity of informing my Friends of my Condition.

As the Violence of my Grief was somewhat abated, Sleep stole insensibly on me, and I enjoy'd a gentle Slumber. In about two Hours he return'd; and told me, He was glad to see I look'd so much better than I had done awhile ago, which made him hope that his late Discourse had in some Measure prevail'd, and the Sincerity of his Intentions appear'd. I answer'd, That
were

were I sure of the Truth of his Designs I should readily agree to his Proposals, which were too advantageous for a Person in my Circumstances to refuse. *By all that is sacred or binding in the World*, said he, *you may believe the Truth of what I say, and trust in the Sincerity of my Declaration: Nor do I, by proposing it, mean more than, as well as I can, to remedy the Evils you were plunged into thro' my Weakness. If you can't confide in what I say, propose some stronger Oath to confirm it, and I shall readily take it. Well, answer'd I, Doctor, I can't doubt your Integrity after this, and now I accept of your Proposal; nor shall I desire any other Security than what you have already given, and shall hereafter conform myself to your Measures.*

C H A P. VI.

Sophia arrives in London with Dr. Potion. Her Reasons for so doing. A surprizing Instance of Ingratitude.

WHEN we had breakfasted, a Servant inform'd the Doctor, that the Chaise he had order'd was ready, upon which he conducted me into it; and we arriv'd, after an easy Journey, at his House in *London*. It was but small, yet large enough for his Family; being no more than his Niece, two Maid Servants and a Man, to which I was now added. He appointed me an handsome Chamber, and seem'd to be studious of preparing every Thing that he thought might be pleasing to me, or contribute to my Entertainment.

As I knew not where this strange Adventure would end, I determin'd to resign

resign myself to Providence, resolving to make myself as easy as I could, 'till I had heard from my Mother or Uncle: For I consider'd, That had I return'd to *Venice* (which I might have done, as there were Ships frequently going thither) before I had clear'd myself fully to them, I might perhaps have met with a Reception which I did not deserve. My Mother I knew too well to expect a good one, after my Flight and Marriage with my dear *Cordelio*; and my Uncle I was not as yet sufficiently acquainted with, to know whether he had that real Regard for me which he often declar'd he had, and which his Actions seem'd to confirm.

It was for these Reasons that I endeavour'd to content myself under my present Circumstances, 'till it should be the Will of Heaven to alter my Condition for the better.

I enquir'd after *Leonora*; but, as the Doctor had before inform'd me, she had left the City. As for any other Acquaintance I had, they were so few, and

and whom I had never any great Opinion of, that I troubled none of them; left, coming to the Knowledge of the tottering Situation of my Affairs, and my present Dependence, they should have repuls'd me in a Manner too shocking for a Person of my haughty Spirit to bear.

When Persons are reduc'd to low Circumstances, it has often been their Fate, upon applying to those whom perhaps they have much oblig'd; nay, even rais'd to their present Stations in Life, to be despis'd and rejected. Of this I have known many Instances; and in particular a very extraordinary one, in the Person of a certain Nobleman, who was ruin'd rather by his hospitable, generous Temper, than any Irregularity. This Gentleman being reduc'd to very indifferent Circumstances, considering his Rank, apply'd to borrow a Sum of Money (in order to purchase a Post in the Army) to a Person who was very rich, and who then drew considerable Profit from a Place which
he

he had acquir'd thro' the Interest of this Nobleman, promising to repay it in a short Time ; but was answer'd, with an unusual Surliness, That he could not spare so much. The Nobleman desir'd him to lend him as much as he could conveniently spare : But he reply'd, very audaciously, That he did not care to lend Money at all : That if he had the good Luck to acquire any Thing, he might thank his own Industry and good Behaviour for it ; for, had he not deserv'd it, no one would have given it him ; therefore to none was he oblig'd, for what he had earn'd and purchas'd with Diligence and Care.

At this the Nobleman left him with Indignation, nor staid to make a Reply : But, I have been told, he found a Means of representing his Case to his Royal Master, who set him above being again affronted by such mean-spirited Wretches, and in whose Favour he now deservedly shines ; having it in his Power to repay the Ingratitude of
of

of this Villain, but his Generosity is too great to notice it.

As I reflected on the base Treatment this Nobleman met with, from one whose Obligations to him were infinite, it deterr'd me from applying to. People who were not in the least bound to serve me, farther than the common Rules of Civility requir'd, for fear of meeting with worse Treatment.

My Reason for making this Digression is, lest that, without considering my absolute Necessity, the Reader should too rashly censure my Conduct in regard of *Potion*. My having but Ten Guineas remaining (a small Stock to one who had liv'd in so grand a Manner as I had done) chiefly induc'd me to accept this Proposal; thinking I should be but coldly receiv'd, my real Circumstances known, go whither I would, and therefore inapt at the first Bait inconstant Fortune threw in my Way: Just as a Person who is almost drown'd, and has little Prospect of

Q saving

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saving his Life, lays hold of the slenderest Twig to support himself, 'till farther reliev'd.

C H A P. VII.

Potion's villainous Design. Sophia's Distress, and the Resolution with which she undergoes it.

I Liv'd a considerable Time pretty quietly in the Doctor's House. The only Company I had was *Clara*, his Niece. She was not a handsome, yet a well-bred Girl; could talk very well, and lov'd Reading. As the Doctor had a pretty good Collection of Books, we both spent great Part of our Time in his Study.

I remain'd as easy as possible under my present Circumstances, patiently waiting for the next Change of *Fortune*; resolving to meet, with all the
Courage

Courage of an Heroine, whatever Danger the fickle Goddess should next present me: For I look'd on the Quietness I now enjoy'd as no more than a Calm, which preceded some terrible Storm——And indeed my Suspicions were but too well grounded.

One Day, after Breakfast, the Doctor call'd me into his Closet, and discours'd me awhile; laying before me, in the strongest Terms, the Heinousness of the Crime my Mother had resolv'd to perpetrate against him. He then produc'd a Paper, wherein he shew'd me my Name; which, he inform'd me, was a Warrant against me, for being an Accomplice to my Mother's infamous Designs.

Being prepar'd for the worst of Events, this did not so much surprize me as it otherwise might have done. I calmly therefore answer'd, *My Innocence was sufficient to defend me against any such Accusation.* He told me, My pretended Innocence would be of little Service to me, for he had sufficient

cient Testimony to prove my being an Accomplice; and he would have Satisfaction from me, since he could not from my Mother.

I answer'd very resolutely, As I knew I was free from the Crime alledg'd against me, his Menaces did not in the least affect me. Besides, our Laws were too just to condemn a Person on his bare Accusation: And I was sure he could have no other Proof for what he advanc'd, but what himself pleas'd to assert. As for his having sufficient Testimony for what he said, that I fear'd not. I did not believe any Person, but himself, could be such a mean, sordid Wretch, as to acknowledge that for a Truth which never had a Being, to serve the Ends of a base, poor, designing Fellow, and ruin a Woman, who at present was distress'd, but who never even sought to hurt any one living. *No! it is impossible. I defy the utmost you can do. With the small Stock I have remaining, tho' unknown and unbefriended, I'll else-where*

where try my Fortune; for much rather had I starve, than stay beneath the Roof of so perfidious a Monster.

I here made towards the Door, but he interpos'd: Nay, hold, says he, I must own your Passion becomes you exceedingly well, and really it makes you look better than you have done this good while: But yet I think that haughty, assuming Air, and rais'd Tone of Voice, is no Way proper for your Benefactor. It seems then you don't remember that I rais'd and comforted you, when suddenly plung'd in unexpected Poverty. That I redeem'd you from your Miseries, introduc'd you into my own House, and preferr'd you to my Table; and, in Return, I am insulted. Because your Mother did not design me Wrongs enough, you must compleat them, as well as you can. I expected to have found you at my Feet, imploring Forgiveness, and attoning for your Offences with Tears; but, on the contrary, I am abus'd.—I would here have

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have spoken, but he would not allow me.

It may be, says he, I shall stop your Haste sooner than you imagine, and make you talk in a much gentler Strain. Saying thus, he knock'd with his Foot, and an ill-looking, meagre Fellow, whom I had recollected to have seen working in my Mother's Gardens, enter'd the Room.— *Here Fellow, says he, declare what you have heard pass between this Woman and her Mother concerning me:* Upon which the Fellow positively asserted, That sitting one Morning under a Hedge in the Garden, eating his Breakfast, he heard two Women in earnest Discourse; and one said to the other, *Do you really think this Design practicable?* Yes, answer'd the other, *you know* *Potion is a very easy-temper'd Man, when getting, or even expecting to get any Thing, tho' of ever so little Value.* You know, by Experience, *you bend him like a Reed, so that you give him any Thing that's*
good,

good, which he is sure never to refuse. Invite him to a Dram after Tea, in which you may before infuse the Powder; after the drinking of which he can't fail to adore you, and must marry, to gratify his passionate Inclinations.—The cunning Man affirm'd that it could not fail of Success; and he is allow'd never to falsify his Word, but is infallible in his Prescriptions.

This rais'd my Curiosity, said he, to know who they were; having sometimes seen your Honour walking in the Garden, and I remember your Honour once gave me Six-pence to drink: So I got up, and look'd over the Hedge as privately and as softly as I could, to see who they were that were talking. When I found it to be my Mistress and the young Lady her Daughter, I did not much heed their Discourse, for I don't care to meddle in other People's Affairs; or, as the saying is, to dip my Fingers in another Man's Porridge: Till, being discharg'd
and

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and hir'd as an Helper to your Honour's Gardener, Mr. Robert, I told him the Story, because I thought it might concern you, and you were afterwards pleas'd to give me — Enough, Fellow, says Potion; wait below.

Now, Madam, says he, turning to me in a jeering Manner, I hope you are sufficiently convinc'd of my Proof; and I believe my Testimony, together with this Fellow's, may be taken for Truth. — Convinc'd! says I, I am too well of your Villainy. — I would have proceeded, but the Wretch's Assurance so astonish'd me, that I could not express myself but in Tears.

He rejoin'd, After what you have heard, you can't but think I have it in my Power to punish you; which be assur'd I shall do with Severity, unless you submit to the Conditions I shall impose. Know then, that I admir'd your Mother, from the first Time she acknowledg'd a Passion for me; nay, that so highly, that I design'd to have

have accepted her Proposals of Marriage, and determin'd to have disclos'd my Thoughts to her on that very Day when I fortunately found the Ingredients prepar'd for me, and the Paper in which was set down the Manner of administering it, with its baleful Effects.

Here I happily discover'd a Plot laid to make me ever after miserable; which plainly prov'd the Motive that induc'd her to avow a Liking to me, was Gain. In this, you are conscious, you were a guilty Associate. The Insight this gave me into her real, natural Inclinations, as well as her present Posture of Affairs, chang'd my ardent Love into the most violent Hatred; and from that Time I resolv'd to punish her in the most exemplary Manner, in order to deter other weak People from using the same vile Practices: But soon, inform'd by some invisible Spirit, always Assistent to propagate Wickedness, with a Cunning and Celerity unknown to any

R

but

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*but a Woman of her Contrivances,
surprizingly defeated my Intentions.*

*It was some Grief to me, to find
I had been disappointed; but when
I knew her to be out of my Power,
I stifled my Revenge, 'till some Op-
portunity should present itself. At
length you luckily fell into my Hands,
on that Day when your Husband
was kill'd by Highwaymen. You
were not so much alter'd, but that
I straight knew you. Your Mother's
Usage coming fresh into my Memory,
and finding it then in my Power
to be reveng'd, tho' not on herself in
Person, yet on her second self, her
Child; who, to give the greater Gust
to my Revenge, was not only featur'd
very like her, but even much handsomer,
I resolv'd to execute my Devices.*

*The better to accomplish my Design,
I offer'd you an Asylum at my House;
but nought can express the Joy I
conceiv'd, in finding your Circumstances
oblig'd you to accept the Invitation.
Knowing I had a Servant whom you
had*

had seen, whose Deposition against you would be enough, I first design'd to have straight deliver'd you up to Justice; but having consider'd that you have some Share of Beauty, and Personage not to be rejected, I was induc'd to make you an Offer of the same Terms, on which I was willing to agree with your Mother: Only I shall not demand any Money of you, because I know you have none to spare. I shall, in Return, give you a Bond, which shall entirely free you from all Apprehensions of my ever molesting you. After this, you shall be at Liberty to depart whither you please; and I shall give you Ten Pounds to bear your Charges back to your Mother, or else you may remain in my House, and make the same Use of it that you were wont, provided that you repeat the Obligation as often as I please. But let me tell you once again, if you do not peaceably submit, I shall give you up to the Rigour of the Law, and prosecute you with the utmost

utmost Severity; and my Proofs are too glaring, ever to allow your coming off.

Barbarous, insulting Wretch! answer'd I, have you then the Impudence so audaciously to declare your wicked Purposes! Was it, only to work my Ruin, and render me infamous, you invited me hither, under the Mask to betray me. Was it for this I listen'd to your artful, treacherous Dissimulation? Why did I not stop my Ears to restrain me from hearkening to that Voice, which, under Pretence of administering me Comfort, and delivering me from crouding Miseries, sought for ever to undo me? Have you then no Shame, thus openly to acknowledge your Baseness! No Remorse! No Stings of Conscience, for striving to wrong an innocent Creature in your Power! No Pity for a poor, forlorn, helpless Wretch! Why, alas! was I reserv'd for this? Why was I not rather left to Want and pinching Poverty? Better that I had begg'd my Bread
from

*from Door to Door, and fed upon the
Morsels purchas'd by my Entreaties
from charitable People, whose Com-
passion my unhappy Condition might
have mov'd. Why did I not perisb
with my unhappy Husband, whose
greatest Misfortune was his having
too much Regard to my ill-fated Beau-
ty, the Chief of all my Ills, rather
than have fallen into this Villain's
Hands!*

*But wherefore should I exclaim?
It was the Will of Heaven that I
should survive, to taste the Curse in-
flicted on those who are guilty of
Disobedience, and it is now fallen
heavily upon me. Had I remain'd
with my Mother and good Uncle, I
had never experienced this: And sure,
for leaving them, I merit the mightiest
Ills, who am perhaps guilty of the
Death of an unfortunate Woman;
who, tho' she had many Failings, yet
lov'd me tenderly.*

These were the chief Arguments I
made use of to turn him from his
Purpose,

~~My~~ purpose, and save me from the threatening Danger. Much more I said, and much did he urge to persuade me to the horrid Fact, at the Thoughts of which my very Nature shudders. Sometimes I represented to him, that the Consequence could be nothing less than the eternal Destruction of us both; and at others I told him, that the greatest Villain could not do more than offer a Person Refuge, and then betray her. Sometimes I entreated him in the most softening Terms I could think of, and then again my Fury drove me beyond the Bounds of Reason.

C H A P. VIII.

Potion leaves Sophia in his Closet, under dreadful Apprehensions. She tries to escape, but in vain. Resolves to stab Potion, should he offer Violence. A surprizing Accident delivers her out of her Distress.

HE was deaf to all I could urge in my Defence, and only laugh'd at my Passion. He heard me a good while, without interrupting me, and at last went out of the Room; telling me, His Business drew him at that Time else-where: Besides, my Passion was then a little too violent to expect me to listen to Reason; but, perhaps, I might be cooler when he came again. He charg'd me to consider what he had said; being, at his Return, fully determin'd to execute one or the other of his Purposes.

When

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When he was gone, I try'd to get out; but he had made the Door too fast, and I found myself depriv'd of all Likelihood of escaping. Upon this I sat me down, to consider what I should do; and at last resolv'd, if he persisted, to stab him. For this Purpose I put a Penknife in my Bosom, which I commonly carry'd in my Pocket: After which, I lay down on a Couch something quieter than before, and chose out from among some Books which lay in the Room *Drelincourt on Death*; in which I had been reading for some Time, when I heard a Person opening the Door.

The Doctor came in, all in a Sweat, muttering to himself, whilst he was searching for the Keys of his Press; he told me, He was not come, as yet, to demand Performance; but that having lent Three Hundred Pounds to Sir *Thomas Leakland* (who was now dying) upon his Bond, he must make haste to have Judgment enter'd on it
before

before his Death, otherwise he should lose his Money.

He spoke this so fast, and so confusedly that I could scarce understand him; for he seem'd in great Hurry and Perplexity. The Bond lay in a great Case, where he kept his Books, Notes, and other Papers of Business. Over this Case, was a Marble Bust of *Galen*, very large and heavy. His Haste to get at the Bond made him forget, after he had put the Key in, to turn it; and, giving it a great Pull to force it open, it shook the Case so violently, that the Marble Bust fell down just upon the Doctor's Head, which smash'd it all to Pieces; and he expir'd, without so much as a Groan.

The Accident shock'd me so, that I had not Power to call Assistance; but luckily the falling of the Bust alarm'd the Servants, and they ran up in great Confusion. Before any Enquiry could be made concerning the Accident, *Clara* ran in; and seeing the Doctor in that

S

Condition,

Condition, immediately fainted in my Arms.

After some Time, we brought her to herself. The Person who waited for the Bond, took the first Opportunity of her Recovery to desire her to look for it. As she expected great Part of the Doctor's Effects, she immediately search'd, notwithstanding her Grief, and deliver'd the Bond, which prevented the Loss of so large a Sum of Money. Nor was it too late, for Sir *Thomas* liv'd two Days after, and the Bond was properly secur'd.

I could not reflect on the Doctor's sudden Death without Horror, tho' it seem'd to be the Assistance of Providence, to free me from the desperate Condition this old Villain's Artifice had plung'd me in.

The *Sunday* following the Doctor was bury'd, and the next Day *Clara* sent for an Attorney of her Acquaintance and examin'd the Will, which she found in the same Case that had occasion'd the Doctor's Death, where she discover'd

Sophia. Shakespear. 147.

discover'd he had dy'd worth Twenty Thousand Pounds. He had left Four Thousand Pounds to another Niece, and Five Thousand to a distant Relation, who was a Merchant in the City; leaving all the rest to her, and herself sole Executrix.

About a Week after this, when she was a little settled, she desir'd that I would not disturb myself on Account of this Disaster, but remain in her House, and share her Fortune; adding, That she knew no Person whom she so affectionately regarded, so that I might assure myself of my being very welcome.

I could not but be much oblig'd to her for this generous Offer; and, as I was now deliver'd from my Fears, I freely accepted it, seeing as yet no Means of bettering myself.

I had often wrote to *Venice*, both to my Mother and Uncle, representing my Case to them in the most moving Manner I could, but never receiv'd any Answer, so that I began to think that
neither

neither car'd to hear any more of me. My Mother, for the Reasons I have before mention'd ; and my Uncle, bias'd by her ; therefore I scarcely knew which Way to turn me, or what to do, had I left this House.

C H A P. IX.

*Sophia's Affairs take a happy Turn.
Her Uncle arrives. Their Joy at
meeting.*

CLARA being a Woman of good Sense, as well as of extreme good Nature, we liv'd very happily together ; and, had the Fortune been my own, I could not have liv'd with more Ease, my Commands in the House being as much respected and obey'd as tho' given by herself : In short, I could not desire more, for I partook in all her Visits and Diversions.

At

Sophia Shakespear. 149

At length it happen'd that we were both invited to see the Solemnity of the Coronation of His present most gracious Majesty King *GEORGE II.* and were plac'd in such a Manner that we could perceive every Thing that was done. When the Ceremony was over, we both came Home; where we had been for some Time, and were discoursing of what we had seen, when a Servant came and told us, an elderly Gentleman enquir'd for me.

As I could not guess who it was, I desir'd he should walk up: But who can conceive my Astonishment, when I beheld my Uncle enter the Room! My Joy and Wonder were so great, that I could not speak for some Minutes. He catch'd me in his Arms; and, having for some Time tenderly embrac'd me, *Have I then, said he, after so long a Search, found you again!*

Here, his Joy was so great, that he could no Way express himself but in Tears.

As

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After the greatest Signs of a mutual Satisfaction, I ask'd him, Wherefore he had left *Venice*? where was my Mother? and to what lucky Accident was the present happy Interview to be attributed? Upon which he gave me the following Account.

C H A P. X.

Mr. Wealthy's Story.

“ **T**HAT Night we miss'd you,
 “ we were in the greatest Grief
 “ imaginable, not knowing what to
 “ think. The Gondoliers affirm'd, That
 “ they had seen a Gentleman take you
 “ up, and bear you to an adjacent
 “ Gondola: But this we knew not
 “ how to believe, because we expected,
 “ as you had no Acquaintance in *Ve-*
 “ *nice*, you would have return'd Home,
 “ after recovering from your Fright.
 “ Altho'

“ Altho’ we made all possible En-
 “ quiry, yet we could get no farther
 “ Intelligence concerning you, and there-
 “ fore imagin’d you was drown’d; ’till
 “ your Husband’s Letter freed us from
 “ our Apprehensions, tho’ not from
 “ our Trouble: For tho’ that inform’d
 “ us you were alive, we look’d upon
 “ you as dead, since lost to us.

“ Your Mother us’d to rail against
 “ you and your Husband, whenever
 “ you were spoken of, tho’ she seem’d
 “ to be griev’d for your leaving her.
 “ She took no Delight in any Com-
 “ pany, but such a Liking to some
 “ sweet *Italian* Wine, which I had in
 “ the House, that she often render’d
 “ herself unfit to be seen. I spoke to
 “ her of it two or three Times, and re-
 “ presented the Disorder it put her
 “ into, at which she seem’d greatly
 “ offended.

“ Upon this I resolv’d to say no
 “ more to her, tho’ it griev’d me to
 “ the Soul to see her thus, as I had
 “ promis’d, at her first coming, to let
 “ her

“ her have her Desires in any Thing :
“ But she at last grew so fond it, that
“ she kept herself almost always in-
“ toxicated, and would not keep her
“ Chamber, but walk about the House
“ in that Condition, where she was
“ often derided by my Servants ; seve-
“ ral of whom, for this Reason, I turn’d
“ away.

“ I laid this before her, when I
“ found a sober Interval, but it was
“ to no Purpose. She took my friend-
“ ly Advice in a wrong Manner ; for
“ she look’d upon it that I reprov’d
“ her because I was weary of her, and
“ that she was now grown burdensome
“ to me, so that she was very often
“ in an insensible Condition ; and it
“ soon got so much the better of her,
“ that it threw her into a Fever, which
“ ended her Life.

“ Upon her Death-Bed she bless’d
“ her *Sophia*, and declar’d she had great-
“ ly wrong’d you, for which she was
“ extremely sorry : At the same Time
“ pulling this Diamond Ring off her
“ Finger,

“ Finger, clapt it on mine, charging
 “ me to deliver it to you, as a Token
 “ of her last good Wishes, if ever it
 “ should be my Chance to meet with
 “ you ; which I promis’d to do, and
 “ which here I do, according to my
 “ Promise and her dying Will, restore
 “ to you. I have worn it ever since,
 “ in order to restore it to you the
 “ first Opportunity, and it was the
 “ only valuable Thing she left.

“ I was indeed very sorry for her
 “ Death ; and, having no Children
 “ myself, I resolv’d to make it my
 “ Business to search for you. For
 “ this Purpose I sold my Stock, and
 “ went to *Geneva*. I enquir’d in
 “ that Church, wherein your Hus-
 “ band’s Letter inform’d us you were
 “ marry’d, yet could hear no more
 “ of you, than that such Persons had
 “ been marry’d there, about a Year
 “ and a Half before ; but whither
 “ they were gone, no one could in-
 “ form me : However, I took a Copy
 “ of the Certificate, together with the

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“ Attestations

“ Attestations of the Priest, Clerk,
“ and proper Officers; not knowing
“ but they might be of Service here-
“ after, as you were marry’d in a
“ foreign Country.

“ A little after I embark’d in a Ship
“ of my own, which I had freight-
“ ed and appointed to meet me at
“ *Lyons*, and sail’d directly for *England*.
“ Having sold my Ship and Cargo to
“ good Advantage, I made it my
“ Business to enquire every where
“ for you, both by your own and
“ your Husband’s Name, but could
“ hear nothing of you: Only in
“ one Place I was told, That a Gen-
“ tleman of the same Name had been
“ robb’d and murder’d by Villains,
“ some Time since; but whether or
“ no he had been marry’d they could
“ not inform me, so that this only
“ serv’d to embarrass me the more.

“ I now began to give up all
“ Hopes of finding you, since my
“ Search was to no Purpose. Upon
“ meeting with a Person whom I
“ knew

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“ knew to be a Man both of Sense
“ and Discretion, we having been
“ formerly very intimate, I pitch’d on
“ him for a Companion, to which he
“ was easily induc’d by the Lowness
“ of his present Circumstances; for it
“ would have been something hard
“ for me, who had been always us’d
“ to a publick Life, to be at once
“ depriv’d of all Conversation: And
“ I own, I look’d upon it to be the
“ greatest Gift Fortune could bestow,
“ next to the restoring my *Sophia*,
“ to point me out so good a Friend.
“ He had, in the Beginning of his
“ Life, been left Heir to Four Hun-
“ dred Pounds a Year; of which,
“ having travell’d through most Coun-
“ tries in *Europe*, he sold the greatest
“ Part, and laid it out in Merchan-
“ dise; but, meeting with many Mis-
“ fortunes, was reduc’d very low.

“ I afterwards purchas’d an Estate,
“ near *Greenwich*, of Eight Hundred
“ Pounds *per Annum*, and have built
“ a little House; wherein, with my
“ Friend,

“ Friend, I resolv’d to have spent
“ the Remainder of my Life in Retirement, such a Kind of Life being
“ as agreeable to him as to me.

“ Upon the Decease of his late glorious Majesty, we were induc’d to come
“ to Town, in order to behold the august Solemnity of his present gracious Majesty’s Coronation, and hir’d
“ one of the most convenient Seats I could get : But I had not been long
“ seated when I was surpriz’d by the
“ Appearance of two Ladies, who took
“ their Places in a Seat near me, of
“ whom you was one.

“ I at first could scarcely believe
“ my Eyes : But the Pleasure I conceiv’d, after having attentively consider’d you, in assuring myself you
“ was my long-lost *Sophia*, is inexpressible. I was so taken up with looking on you, that I saw but little
“ of the Solemnity ; which employ’d
“ your Attention too closely, to allow
“ you to notice me.

“ When

Sophia Shakespear. 157

“ When it was finish’d, I plac’d
“ myself as near you as possible ; and,
“ observing your Livery, I order’d
“ my Servant to follow you, which
“ he did, and return’d to inform me
“ where he had left you. I then
“ hasten’d to the Coffee-House near
“ the End of the Street, where I en-
“ quir’d whose House it was, but was
“ astonish’d to find it belong’d to *Por-
“ tion*. I was much terrify’d, when
“ they inform’d me of the Manner of
“ his Death ; but was too impatient
“ to see my dearest *Sophia*, to stay to
“ spend Time upon Reflections : I
“ made what Haste I could to bless
“ myself with the Sight of one, who
“ is the dearest Person left me in
“ this World, and which was the only
“ Thing wanting to render my Hap-
“ piness compleat.”

C H A P.

C H A P. XL.

Sophia is extreamly happy. Receives a Letter from Leonora. Mr. Wealthy brings a Gentleman, whose Presence gives Sophia an agreeable Surprise.

MY Uncle having thus far satisfy'd my Curiosity, again ardently embrac'd me, with Tears in his Eyes. I then ask'd him, Why he was so unkind as not to answer the Letters I sent him? But he assur'd me, That he had receiv'd none, but that sent by *Cordelio*.

I then order'd a Collation, and some Wine; wherewith having refresh'd himself, he begg'd me to inform him what had befallen me since he had seen me, and what lucky Turn of Fortune had thrown me into the Company of that agreeable Lady.

On this I repeated my Adventures, since the Time I had left *Venice*, to

Sophia Shakespear. 159

that happy Minute; not forgetting *Potion's* Villainy, nor the Sweetness and Good-nature of his Niece *Clara*. He was charm'd with her Goodness; and told her, He should always acknowledge it as done to himself: For that he regarded me as well as he should have done his own Child, were she now alive.

He would have taken a House in Town, but the Chambers the Doctor had us'd being still empty, *Clara* begg'd him to accept of them, there being Room enough both for him and the other Gentleman; which he did, after some Entreaty.

Fortune now seem'd to take Pleasure in delighting me, and look'd as if she had resolv'd to make me Amends for all the Misfortunes I had ran thro': For while I was warm with the Satisfaction of my Uncle's Return, the following Letter was brought me by a Footman from *Leonora*; whose Absence had made me resign all Hopes
of

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of ever seeing, or hearing from her
again.

Dear SOPHIA,

SOON after you went in Search of
your Mother and Uncle, I fell into
a Lowness of Spirits; and a deep
Melancholly encreasing on me, my
Friends began to apprehend some bad
Consequences wou'd follow, if I did
not take some speedy Method of shaking
it off. With much Perswasion, I
agreed to try if following the publick
Amusements wou'd relieve me. I
dress'd, and shone forth at the Operas,
Balls, Plays, and all other Places,
that the Young, Gay, and Unthinking
resort to. These Meetings reliev'd me
for the Time, but did not cure me, for
my private Hours were as before.
My Mind was full of idle Fancies,
horrible Images, and frightful Dreams,
which still kept me a Stranger to
Repose.

While I labour'd under this Melan-
cholly, a Lady of my Acquaintance
and

and her Brother came to take their Leave of me, being to set out for Paris in two Days. As we had been pretty intimate, our parting began to be tender; when, of a sudden, it struck into my Head, That as this Lady and her Brother were People of a pleasant Disposition, it wou'd change, if I bore them Company, the Sadness of mine. I begg'd they would let me go with them, and they were pleas'd with the Request. Every Thing was settled, and we set out for Dover in three Days. We waited there some Time for a Wind; but the Time did not pass tedious, for the Gaiety of my Company gave me more Pleasure than I had felt for some Months past. Our Intimacy encreas'd every Day, 'till at last I could perceive the young Gentleman, whom I will call Riot, had a farther Liking for me than what Friendship inspires.

We had not been long in Paris, before he made a full Declaration of his Passion for me: But, alas! my

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dar

dear Sophia, he was too late. I had already fixt upon a young Officer in the Gens des Arms. He caught my Eyes, and my Heart approv'd their Choice.

As we had daily Opportunities of conversing, he as soon discover'd my Inclinations, as I had done Mr. Riot's—nor was Riot insensible of his Rival's more prevailing Accomplishments.——My Neglect of him, set him upon Revenge; but such as sure a Man of Honour never could be inspir'd with. He deluded me to a private Part of one of the publick Gardens, and there attempted a Violence that Modesty could not but resent.

Luckily, for my Preservation, my Officer had follow'd us at a Distance into this Retreat; and, hearing me cry out, came to my Rescue. I prevail'd, but not without great Difficulty, with my two Lovers to let this Matter drop in Silence; telling Riot, I freely forgave the Violence he had offer'd, and if Lafeu (such was my
Lover's

Sophia Shakespear. 163

Lover's Name) would not resent it, I would immediately make him, at the next Church, Master of my Person, as he had from the first Sight been Ruler of my Heart.

This Proposal had its desir'd Effect. I kept my Word, have liv'd happy with the best of Husbands ever since, and am now come to England with him; where nothing can add to my Satisfaction, but the seeing my dear Sophia, and happy as

LEONORA LAFEU.

This Letter pleas'd me extreamly; and I sent a solemn Injunction to *Leonora* and her Husband, to dine with me the next Day, or the Day following at farthest.

My Uncle retir'd to his Lodgings for that Night, and return'd the next Morning in a Hackney Coach with his Trunks and Portmanteaus, together with his Companion: And I was agreeably surpriz'd to find it was *Nicander*; whom, tho' he was much alter'd, I still
knew

knew very well. He express'd a great deal of Pleasure in seeing me so well, and for my Part I was extreamly glad to see him.

As our Conversation a good deal turn'd upon the various Scenes of Life we had ran thro', I begg'd *Nicander*, whom I had not seen for some Years, to let us know what Fortune had be-fel him, since my dear *Cordelio* and he were Friends.—He consented, and began as follows.

C H A P. XII.

Nicander's Story.

“ **Y**OU may remember, Madam,
 “ my worthy Friend, and your
 “ unfortunate Husband *Cordelio*, told
 “ you, that Evening he providentially
 “ sav'd my Life from the Ruffians, the
 “ friendly Caution I gave him, con-
 “ cerning

“ cerning an infamous Woman he had
 “ got acquainted with, when we were
 “ in *Florence* together ; from thence, I
 “ believe, I must begin my History.

“ A few Hours after I had parted
 “ with *Cordelio*, and warn’d him of the
 “ Danger he was plunging in, my Ser-
 “ vant came to me in a great Hurry,
 “ and begg’d I would take care of
 “ myself, for some Villains had a De-
 “ sign that Night to murder me. I
 “ was greatly alarm’d at this unexpect-
 “ ed News, well knowing I had not
 “ been guilty of Wrong to any Body,
 “ that should provoke them to so in-
 “ human an Action.

“ The Fellow insisted upon the
 “ Truth of his Assertion ; and told me,
 “ That as he stood at the Inn, a little
 “ within the Stable Door, he heard
 “ two Men venting horrid Execrations
 “ against some Persons, which excited
 “ his Curiosity ; and that he got be-
 “ hind the Door, and heard good Part
 “ of their Discourse. The first Words
 “ he heard were, *Confound the Villain,*
 “ *he.*

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“ he has blown up all our Scheme. I
“ over-heard him just now cautioning
“ Cordelio, giving our Mistress such
“ an infamous Character, as must
“ needs put him upon Enquiries, and
“ we shall never have an Opportunity
“ of risting him. — But (reply'd the
“ other, with a dreadful Oath) I'll be
“ reveng'd upon his Friend; Nicander,
“ I think he's call'd. I'll teach him
“ to interfere in other Mens Affairs.
“ If you'll stand by me, this Night
“ we'll meet him behind the Abby
“ Wall, and cut him into Atoms.
“ The other readily agreed to the
“ Murder, and they parted. — My
“ dear Master; (continu'd the Servant)
“ leave the Town this Night; for these
“ barbarous Villains are always
“ punctual in Mischief, and will cer-
“ tainly execute their wicked De-
“ signs.

“ I knew too well the Nature of
“ those Bravoës, not to approve of my
“ Servant's Advice. I order'd him to
“ fly to Cordelio, let him know what
“ he

Sophia Shakespear. 167

“ he had heard, and perswade him to
“ go off with me that Evening, lest
“ when they miss’d me they should
“ seek their Revenge on him.

“ The Servant went to every Place,
“ publick and private, where *Cordelio*
“ us’d to frequent, but without meet-
“ ing him. This Disappointment gave
“ me great Uneasiness ; but as my own
“ Life was at Stake, I was oblig’d to
“ decamp without any farther Search
“ after *Cordelio*, only I left two Let-
“ ters for him at two different Coffee-
“ Houses, where he was most likely
“ to meet with them.

“ We mounted our Horses about
“ Two o’Clock in the Afternoon, and
“ before Nine arriv’d at *Pisa* ; where
“ being out of the Reach of those
“ Villains, I recollected my Spirits,
“ and sat down with more Ease than
“ I had done ever since my Servant ac-
“ quainted me of these Murderers De-
“ sign.

“ During my Stay in this Town,
“ I fell in Love with a Lady, whose
“ Name

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“ Name was *Louisa*. She had been
 “ Wife to a rich Merchant, who dy’d
 “ in the first Year of his Marriage,
 “ and left her a handsome Fortune.
 “ She was about Eight and Twenty,
 “ very graceful in her Person, and of
 “ an Understanding superior to most
 “ of her Sex. I let her know my
 “ Inclinations, and she did not seem
 “ displeas’d. We had many Con-
 “ versations together, and at last I
 “ ask’d the ultimate Question, Whether
 “ she approv’d of me enough to make
 “ me her Husband. She refus’d an
 “ immediate Answer, and desir’d a
 “ few Days for Consideration.

“ I thought the Time went very
 “ slowly ; for I was really so fond
 “ of her, that all my future Happiness
 “ seem’d to depend upon her Re-
 “ solution. In three Days after she
 “ sent me a Letter with these Words,
 “ which I shall remember as long as
 “ I live, they being the Cause of an
 “ Action I must for ever repent.

“ AS

“ *AS my Brother, by my Hus-*
 “ *band's Will, has some Power*
 “ *over my Fortune, I can't think of*
 “ *settling for Life without his Con-*
 “ *sent. Gain that, and you need not*
 “ *despair of the good Wishes of*

“ LOUISA,

“ This ready Consent of the dear
 “ *Louisa* gave me Transports inex-
 “ preffible; nor did I doubt but her
 “ Brother's would come as easily: But,
 “ alas! how was I deceiv'd? —
 “ When I mention'd the Affair to
 “ *Don Perez* (that was his Name)
 “ with a stern Survey of me, and a
 “ long Pause; he reply'd, No, Sir,
 “ *I don't like the Proposal. I have*
 “ *given my Promise to Henriquez,*
 “ *and must not recal it: Don Perez*
 “ *is a Man of Honour.* I would have
 “ argu'd with him, but he turn'd
 “ upon his Heel, and declin'd all far-
 “ ther Conversation.

X

“ This

“ This unexpected Rebuff stung me
“ to the Soul. I thought I should
“ have gone mad; and, to add to
“ my Distress, I could not by any
“ Means obtain a Meeting with *Louisa*,
“ nor get a Letter to her. She
“ never appear’d in Publick, either at
“ Church or the Opera; from which
“ I concluded, That upon her Bro-
“ ther’s telling her my Offer, she had
“ shewn some Inclination to me, and
“ he had lock’d her up, to break off
“ our Correspondence.

“ I continu’d in this Dilemma for up-
“ wards of a Month; when walking
“ one Day under the Piazza of the
“ great Church, I saw Don *Perez*,
“ and an odd foppish Kind of a
“ Man with him. I look’d upon
“ this to be the happy *Henriquez*,
“ for whom my dear *Louisa* was de-
“ sign’d.

“ As I pass’d by, I heard Don
“ *Perez* say, *That’s the Fellow that*
“ *would have disgrac’d my Family,*
“ *by marrying my Sister:* At which
“ the

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“ the other set up a loud Laugh. I
“ turn’d short upon him; and ask’d
“ him, If there was any Thing so
“ ridiculous in me; that should occa-
“ sion that unmannerly Mirth. —
“ Don *Perez* reply’d; in his usual
“ rough Manner, *It is natural to laugh,*
“ *when Fools pass by.* — *Henriquez*
“ renew’d his Mirth. — I ask’d Don
“ *Perez*, If I was the Fool he meant. —
“ *Certainly*, reply’d *Henriquez*, with
“ another great Laugh. — *I thank*
“ *you, Sir*, answer’d I, *for your In-*
“ *formation, and thus I pay you for*
“ *it.* Saying these Words, I struck
“ his Hat off. — Our Swords were
“ immediately out, but the People
“ going to Church rush’d in and
“ parted us. Some Friends took them
“ away, and I return’d to my
“ Lodgings.
“ In the Evening, I receiv’d a Note
“ to this Purpose :

“ *YOU*

“ *YOU have done an Action that*
 “ *a Man of my Family and Honour*
 “ *can't pass over — I desire to see*
 “ *you in the Walk behind the New*
 “ *College Wall To-morrow Morning,*
 “ *at Six.*

“ *HENRIQUEZ.*

“ *P.S. I shall be alone.*

“ *At the Time mention'd, I took*
 “ *my Sword and Pistols and went to*
 “ *the Place appointed, — When I*
 “ *first came, I could not see my*
 “ *Antagonist; and began to think he*
 “ *had either repented, over-slept his*
 “ *Time, or been prevented by some*
 “ *of his Friends: And indeed I must*
 “ *confess, I should have been glad of*
 “ *any Occasion that might have pre-*
 “ *vented our Engagement; for I*
 “ *trembled more at the Apprehension*
 “ *of spilling another's Blood, than at*
 “ *losing my own. But Custom will*
 “ *tyrannize, and Honour must be*
 “ *maintain'd,*

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“ maintain’d, tho’ at the Expence of
“ Conscience.

“ While I was reflecting upon these
“ unnatural Decisions, a Pistol fir’d,
“ and the Ball went through my Hat.
“ I turn’d hastily round, and saw
“ *Henriquez* springing from behind
“ an old Buttress of the Colledge, with
“ another Pistol ready to discharge at
“ me, which, before I could get up
“ to him, he did; but, by the Di-
“ rection of Providence, it miss’d me.
“ Enrag’d at this cowardly Proceed-
“ ing, without speaking one Word,
“ I ran up, and shot him dead upon the
“ Spot.

“ I had a Horse ready waiting at
“ a little Distance from the Place, and
“ my faithful Servant with him. Soon
“ as I recollected, I made the best of
“ my Way to the Sea-Side; where I
“ hir’d a Vessel, and got safe into
“ *France*.

C H A P

C H A P. XIII.

Continuation of Nicander's Story.

“ **M**Y Mind was now tormented
“ beyond the Power of Man
“ to bear. This Murder, (for I could
“ call it no other, tho’ authoriz’d by
“ daily Example) lay heavy on me;
“ all my Hopes were expir’d of ever
“ seeing *Louisa* more, and every Com-
“ fort lost in my conflicting Passions,
“ which seem’d to threaten Horror
“ and Distraction.

“ I lock’d myself up, gave Way to
“ Melancholly and Despair; and had
“ expir’d so, had it not been for an
“ old Fryar, whom I was acquainted
“ with in my former Travels. This
“ good Man, hearing I was arriv’d,
“ came to me. I told him my Situa-
“ tion, laid open my whole Heart
“ to him, and the dreadful Effects
“ my

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“ my Folly and Rashness had produc'd.

“ This worthy Fryar gently reprov'd, and warmly comforted me.
“ He urg'd, That no Law could call what I had done Murder, since
“ it was no more than Self-Defence;
“ and, in that Case, he look'd upon
“ basely yielding up my own Life
“ more criminal, than taking the
“ Life of him who had determin'd
“ my Death. Many soothing Arguments he us'd, and concluded with
“ an Exhortation to Prayer and Penitence; and to submit myself entirely
“ to the Mercy of that all-forgiving
“ Power, whose Wisdom, as his Goodness, is infinite.

“ I must confess his Reasons had
“ so good an Effect upon me, that
“ I began to revive, and look upon
“ that Gloom of Horror I had so
“ long been bury'd in, like a Dream
“ the Morning Light had dissipated.
“ Religion banish'd Despair, and the
“ Hopes

“ Hopes of Divine Mercy brought
“ Peace and Happiness.

“ This good Man’s Conversation was
“ so agreeable to me, that I never saw
“ him but I felt an unusual Pleasure ;
“ and had some Thoughts of ending
“ my Days in *France*, that I might
“ not lose so comfortable a Friend.

“ As my Mind grew compos’d, the
“ Thoughts of *Louisa* grew more and
“ more predominant : And I at last
“ fixt upon a Project, that, if her
“ Love resembled mine, would cer-
“ tainly bring us once more together,
“ and that for Life ; which was, To
“ send a Stranger to *Pisa*, with a Let-
“ ter for *Louisa*, whose Purport should
“ be no more than just to let her
“ know where I was ; or, if the
“ Messenger could not see her at a
“ proper Place to deliver the Letter,
“ to get near her at Church, or any
“ other publick Place, and whisper by
“ her—*Nicander is at Marseilles*.—
“ Either of these Things done, the
“ Letter

“ Letter deliver’d, or the Words spoken,
 “ he should return immediately.

“ I communicated my Design to the
 “ Fryar, for I now did nothing with-
 “ out his Advice. He not only ap-
 “ prov’d it, but provided me a trusty
 “ Man for the Messenger ; wishing,
 “ at the same Time, that he might
 “ live to have the Pleasure of joining
 “ our Hands.

“ ’Tis not easy to conceive the
 “ anxious Hours that pass’d, between
 “ the setting out of the Messenger
 “ and his return. They would have
 “ been insupportable, had not my
 “ holy Friend mitigated their Torments
 “ by his Conversation.

“ When the Messenger return’d, O
 “ how impatient was I to hear him,
 “ and yet how much afraid ! But,
 “ encourag’d by my Friend the Fryar,
 “ I begg’d he would truly relate what
 “ had happen’d, without adding a
 “ Word to please, or a Circumstance
 “ to torment me.

Y

“ *This,*

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" This, said the Messenger, is the
" Truth——The first Day I spent in
" finding out whether Louisa was
" marry'd, as your Fears suggested,
" but found to the contrary; whether
" she went frequently Abroad to Di-
" vine Service, was answer'd in the
" Affirmative, and told the Church
" she went to every Morning: But I
" never mention'd Louisa's Name, but
" the Murder of Henriquez was im-
" mediately related; and, upon en-
" quiring into the Particulars, all
" agreed he was basely shot by a
" Stranger, who is since fled. This
" general Report made me distrust my
" Success with Louisa; however, as I
" had promis'd, so I resolv'd to speak
" to her, for I found it would be
" dangerous to attempt sending the
" Letter..

" Next Morning I watch'd her to
" Church, follow'd her in, and knelt
" down by her; and, under Pretence
" of looking over her Book, put my
" Mouth close to her Ear, and said,
" NICANDER

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“ **NICANDER** IS NOW AT MAR-
“ **SEILLES**, IN FRANCE.—*Upon the*
“ *Sound she started, and her Cheeks*
“ *lost their Colour in a Moment; so*
“ *sudden and so visible was the Al-*
“ *teration, that I was afraid her*
“ *Concern would have made some Dis-*
“ *covery: But she kept her Place,*
“ *and her Concern was only visible*
“ *in her Face.—I kept my Posture;*
“ *and, after a little Time, she reply'd*
“ *in the same Tone I had spoke—*
“ **HE IS A MURDERER.—I heard,**
“ *but delay'd my Answer for some*
“ *Moments—Then, in the former*
“ *Manner, said,—* **VIRTUOUS,**
“ **BRAVE AND HONEST.—We rose,**
“ *as the Service directed, and she made*
“ *no Reply; but, when we knelt*
“ *again—she said—* **IF HE**
“ **COULD PROVE THAT, I AM HAP-**
“ **PY.**

“ Here I interrupted him; saying,
“ *And did not you immediately tell*
“ *all the Story, from first to last, as*
“ *you have heard me relate it!—*
“ *Soft,*

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“ *Soft, young Son, says the Fryar,
“ recollect what Time he had to tell
“ a Story. — Go on, continu’d he
“ to the Messenger — Who then
“ proceeded thus.*

“ *I answer’d — GIVE HIM AN
“ OPPORTUNITY, AND HE CAN —
“ LET HIM SEE OR HEAR FROM
“ YOU. — Service was now ending ;
“ and, as she rose, I gave her your Let-
“ ter, and she said — I’LL SEND.*

“ *This is all I have done — all I
“ could do — and, for the rest,
“ Louisa must contrive it. — If she
“ loves, she won’t want Invention; if
“ not, you must be contented with her
“ Silence, and think no more of her.*

“ *This Message, tho’ doubtful, was
“ rather inclin’d to the Tender than
“ the Cruel : Yet Lovers generally sup-
“ pose the worst, and this was my
“ Case ; for I imagin’d she believ’d,
“ with the rest of the People, that
“ I had basely murder’d *Henriques* ;
“ and, to confirm that Opinion, her
“ own Words express’d as much. —*

“ But

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“ But then she kindly wish’d me
“ innocent — There Hope appear’d
“ again. — My own perplext Brain
“ could not resolve on Hope or De-
“ spair; but my Friend laught at my
“ Doubts, and read the Message as a
“ certain Proof of *Louisa’s* Love —
“ Adding, with great Pleasure, *If she*
“ *loves so well as I think, it is not*
“ *Locks or Bars can keep her from*
“ *you.*

“ Two Months I waited with all the
“ Impatience of a longing Lover but
“ heard no News, in which Time I was
“ forc’d to take up Money upon my
“ Estate; which was before mortgag’d
“ for above Half its Worth, in order
“ to purchase Merchandise. The Ship
“ in which I had sent my Effects, to
“ my very great Loss, was cast away;
“ and the Captain, who was my par-
“ ticular Friend, and most of the
“ Sailors perish’d. — I was not insensi-
“ ble of my Folly in taking up more
“ Money, but was resolv’d to continue
“ at

“ at *Marseilles* a considerable Time,
 “ in Hopes of seeing the dear *Louisa*.

C H A P. XIV.

Conclusion of Nicander's Story.

“ ONE Day, as the friendly Fryar
 “ and I were at our Study, a
 “ Servant came and told me, a Gentle-
 “ man just arriv'd desir'd to speak with
 “ me at an adjacent Inn. — I was
 “ surpriz'd to hear of a Stranger's en-
 “ quiring for me, as very few People
 “ knew where I was. I would have
 “ evaded going, but the Fryar insisted
 “ upon it. I told him my Fears, That
 “ it might be some Person from *Perez*,
 “ or from *Henriquez's* Family, either
 “ to endeavour to force me back to
 “ *Pisa*, or take a sudden desperate Re-
 “ venge upon me. — He encourag'd
 “ me

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“ me still; and, to put an End to my
“ Fears, said, He would go with me,
“ and should any such Attempt be
“ made as I had apprehended, he had
“ Power enough to prevent the Execu-
“ tion of it.

“ We went together, and was con-
“ ducted into a Room, where we found
“ a young Cavalier in a Riding-Dress;
“ who, upon our Entrance, rose up
“ and saluted us. We sat down, and
“ a general Silence ensu'd. I was not
“ much surpriz'd at this Behaviour,
“ since I imagin'd the Fryar's Presence,
“ as his Business was with me, pre-
“ vented his discovering it; and there-
“ fore nodded to the Fryar, who took
“ the Hint, and went out.

“ When he was gone, I civilly ask'd
“ the Stranger his Business with me.
“ He reply'd, *Sir, if your Name be*
“ *Nicander, I am come in Behalf of a*
“ *fair Lady, who has told me you*
“ *have made some Overtures of Mar-*
“ *riage to her----Her Name is Louisa.*
“ *----She promis'd to consider of your*
“ *Proposal.*

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“ *Proposal. She has done so ; and, as*
“ *I am nearly related to her, she has*
“ *fixt on me to bring you her Resolu-*
“ *tion, and there it is.*

“ Here he gave me a Letter ; which,
“ with Fear and Trembling I open’d,
“ and read, to my great Surprize, this
“ short Couplet :

“ *If Love can see,*
“ *Then look on me.*

“ LOUISA.

“ My Wonder was so great, at the
“ unexpected Contents of the Letter,
“ that I almost lost my Senses, ’till at
“ length I was enough recover’d to
“ look up to the Object that presented
“ it ; when, to my Astonishment, I
“ saw it was *Louisa* herself (for she
“ had, while I was reading, took off
“ her Riding-Cap) who had made use
“ of this innocent Artifice to make her
“ Visit more agreeable. I flew in
“ Rapture to her——kneel’d, kiss’d
“ her Hand, and made use of all the
“ Thanks

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 r. 24
 " Thanks and Adoration, Love, surpriz'd into sudden Extacy, could divine. My *Louisa* too seem'd pleas'd with my Transports, and gave me Tokens of unalterable Love.

" When our first Extacies were over, I began, according to her last Injunction, which my Messenger brought me, to clear myself of the Murder of *Henriquez*: But she stopt me short; saying, *Had I not been well satisfy'd in that Affair, you had never seen me here.*——Long have you labour'd under the Character of being base and cowardly, but *Henriquez's* Servant has convinc'd the World of the contrary. He was conceal'd with his Master, and was to assist in the villainous Design upon your Life, but had too much Humanity; and has since confess'd what his Master did, and what he would have had him seconded.

" Our Conversation was so agreeable, our Happiness so great, and our Love so extravagant, that I quite
 Z " forgot

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“ forgot my Friend, the Fryar ; who,
 “ wondering at my Stay with a Stran-
 “ ger, came in abruptly to know the
 “ Reason.

“ Upon his Entrance, I begg’d that
 “ worthy Man might put it beyond
 “ the Power of Fortune to divide us
 “ more. *I consent, said Louisa, but*
 “ *first must inform you, That I have*
 “ *no Fortune, more than Jewels to*
 “ *the Value of Eight Thousand Lewis*
 “ *d’Ors, which I have brought with*
 “ *me : For my Brother has kept a*
 “ *strict Eye upon me ever since the*
 “ *Death of Henriquez, nor has ever*
 “ *suffer’d me, unless to Church, to stir*
 “ *out of the House. His Enmity to*
 “ *you, notwithstanding your approv’d*
 “ *Innocence, will never be appeas’d ;*
 “ *and when he knows of my Flight,*
 “ *and hears of my Marriage, his In-*
 “ *veteracy, doubtless, will be increas’d ;*
 “ *so that I can never think of a far-*
 “ *ther Supply from my Fortune in his*
 “ *Hands.*

“ I way’d

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“ I wav’d the Objection, and insisted
“ upon an immediate Union of our
• “ Hands ; which, after many Argu-
“ ments, she consented to. The Fryar,
“ with Surprize and Tears of Joy, per-
“ form’d the Ceremony ; which finish’d,
“ Love, Transport and Friendship, took
“ up all our Thoughts.

“ We liv’d in a grand Manner, took
“ a fine House and noble Equipage ;
“ which, in about eight Months Time,
“ almost ruin’d the Remains of my
“ small Fortune : So that I was forc’d,
“ tho’ much against my Will, to part
“ with some of my Wife’s Jewels.
“ This led me to the shocking Thought
“ of what would become of us, when
“ all those Diamonds were dispos’d of.

“ I wrote a handsome Letter to *Pe-*
“ *rez*, to let him know of our Mar-
“ riage ; telling him how much Joy it
“ would give us, to have his Friend-
“ ship added to our Happiness —
“ But we never had any Answer.

“ The Unkindness of her Brother
“ griev’d *Louisa* very much ; nor was
“ she

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“ she quite easy, when she reflected on
 “ our declining Fortune. But the dear
 “ Creature did not live long enough
 “ to feel the unhappy Effects of it—
 “ She was big with Child, and had
 “ been ill for some Time ; when, by
 “ the Doctor’s Advice, she went out
 “ in a Post-Chaise to take the Air.
 “ It unfortunately happen’d that by the
 “ Horses taking Fright, the Chaise was
 “ run against a Tree and over-set.
 “ This Accident had such an Effect
 “ upon her, that she had scarce got
 “ Home before she miscarry’d ; and, in
 “ two Hours after, notwithstanding all
 “ the Assistance Money could procure,
 “ she dy’d. You may easily ima-
 “ gine (continu’d *Nicander*) how much
 “ her Death afflicted me, since even
 “ now I can’t prevent my Tears over-
 “ flowing to her Memory.”

Here *Nicander* continu’d silent some
 Time ; but when he had a little got
 the better of his Grief, he went on
 thus :

“ After

“ After my Wife’s Death, a violent
“ Fever seiz’d me ; and I lay near
“ a Month, without any Prospect of
“ Recovery. Though many Physicians
“ attended me, I should never have
“ got over it, had not the Fryar’s
“ friendly Converse and Advice been
“ more effectual than their Medicines:
“ For indeed, the Indisposition of my
“ Body, proceeded from the Torture of
“ my Mind.

“ At length I recover’d ; and, when
“ I was capable of looking into my
“ Affairs, found myself very much in
“ Debt. I sold almost all the Re-
“ mainder of *Louisa’s* Jewels, paid
“ every Creditor his Demand, and had
“ Two Thousand Lewis d’Oxs in my
“ Pocket.

“ With this Money I resolv’d to retire
“ with my Friend, and never think of
“ any Thing farther, than that peace-
“ ful Hour that puts an End to all
“ Misfortunes. But the Fryar oppos’d
“ my Resolution ; saying, Grief would
“ subfi-

“ subside; Time would efface the
“ Memory of *Louisa*; fresh Passions
“ would rise; and I should repent my
“ rash Retirement — And he was
“ right; for though Solitude now
“ pleas’d me, and I kept close in
“ my Chamber for near two Months,
“ an Inclination to change my Situa-
“ tion I found growing very strong
“ upon me. I had a Mind to visit
“ my Friends in *England*, and re-
“ solv’d upon the Journey: — I com-
“ municated my Thoughts to the
“ Fryar, who approv’d my Design;
“ and advis’d me, by all Means, to
“ set out.

“ I put the greatest Part of my
“ Money into a Banker’s Hands at
“ *Marseilles*, and only took what I
“ thought would bear my Expences
“ ’till I return’d, and what was left
“ of my Wife’s Jewels. After taking
“ Leave of the Fryar, who parted
“ from me with all the Marks of
“ a sincere Friendship, I got on
“ board a Vessel bound for *England*.

“ We

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“ We had a pleasant, easy Voyage;
“ and the agreeable Conversation of the
“ Captain, and some Passengers on
“ board, made it relish better.

“ I wander'd about from Coffee-
“ House to Tavern, but found but few
“ of my Acquaintance—None of my
“ old Intimates; Death, or Change of
“ Business, had remov'd them all. I
“ took a Lodging in *Piccadilly*, and
“ was returning to it, after having
“ been three Weeks in Town, when
“ those Ruffians attack'd me, from
“ whom *Cordelio* so fortunately rescued
“ me. After the kind Assistance he
“ procur'd me, Madam, in *Leonora's*
“ House, the next Day I was so well
“ recover'd of my Wound that I went
“ Home, and there found a Wound of
“ much more desperate Consequence:
“ It was a Letter from the Fryar;
“ which inform'd me, The Banker,
“ with whom I had trusted my Cash,
“ was gone off. The News distracted
“ me. I rode Post immediately to
“ *Dover*, got on board a Vessel, and
“ fail'd

“ fail’d for *Marseilles*, which I reach’d
“ in a few Days.

“ I found the Fryar’s Account too
“ true; for the Banker was gone, and
“ had left many other People in equal
“ Distress with myself. It was reported
“ he was fled to *Venice*; and, according
“ to the Resolution of some others
“ whom he had wrong’d, I pursu’d
“ him.—But, alas! to no Purpose;
“ for, notwithstanding all my Enquiries,
“ I could not gain the least Tidings
“ of him.

“ Thus was I depriv’d of the greatest
“ Part of the small Fortune I had
“ left.—What to do in this miserable
“ Situation, I could not divine.—
“ At length, after a long
“ and unsuccessful Search after the
“ Banker, I return’d to *England*, and
“ liv’d very retir’d at *Greenwich*.

“ I continu’d here near three Years;
“ and, tho’ I liv’d in a very frugal
“ Manner, yet all my Substance was
“ just exhausted, when I accidentally
“ met with this worthy Gentleman
“ (pointing

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“ (pointing to my Uncle) whose Munificence and Goodness to me I forbear to describe ; since generous Virtue is better pleas'd with silent Acknowledgment, than with repeated Thanks or Praise.”

C H A P. XV.

Leonora and her Husband visit Sophia, who seem extreamly happy in each other. Nicander marries Clara. Mr. Wealthy's Generosity. His Death. Sophia determines never to marry again, but to spend the Remainder of her Days in Retirement.

THUS *Nicander* ended his Story ; and really the many Misfortunes he had met, and the patient Resignation with which he bore them, so affected

A a

fectcd the whole Company that we were all growing melancholly. — But my Uncle chang'd the Subject, and call'd for Cards, in order to dissipate the Grief *Nicander's Tale* had given us.

The next Day *Leonora* and her Husband came to visit me. I greatly approv'd her Choice, for Captain *Lafcu* was a fine spritely Gentleman, of about Nine and Twenty. They were both full of Vivacity and Joy, and seem'd extremely happy in each other.

Leonora express'd the highest Satisfaction at this Interview; and we gave mutual Assurances of continuing our former Friendship. They stay'd and din'd with us, and we pass'd the Time very agreeably; but declin'd the Invitation of Supper, being engag'd to sup with some *French* Gentlemen at their own House.

One Day, as my Uncle and I were sitting together, *Clara* came running into the Parlour; and said, *My dear Sophia, you have long wanted to know how,*

bow, and where the unfortunate Cordelio was bury'd. I have just now found a Paper in one of my Uncle's Drawers, which will satisfy your nicest Enquiry.

Saying this, she gave me a Paper; which contain'd an Account of his being bury'd at *Chelsea*, in a Manner suitable to the Dignity of his Family: And that one Mr. *Worthy*, who liv'd in *Piccadilly*, was the Heir at Law that had bury'd him, and was at present in the Possession of the Estate.

While we were looking over this Paper, *Nicander* came in, and my Uncle put it into his Hands. When he saw Mr. *Worthy* was the Person in Possession of *Cordelio's* Estate, he turn'd to me; and said, *Madam, you are very fortunate, in having your Estate in the Hands of a Gentleman of so much Honour as Mr. Worthy. I am perfectly acquainted with him; and, I assure you, there will be no farther Trouble in getting it restor'd to you, than proving yourself to be the Wife of*
Cordelio.

Cordelio. — *That, reply'd my Uncle, I can easily do; for, when I was at Geneva, I took a Copy of the Certificate, with the Attestations of the Priest, Clerk, and proper Officers.*

My Uncle and Nicander agreed to go to Mr. *Worthy* the next Morning, which they accordingly did. He receiv'd them very politely; and, on being inform'd of their Business, said, with a great deal of good Nature, *Well, Gentlemen, since you are come to take my Cousin's Estate from me, I'll ev'n make a Virtue of Necessity, and resign it with a good Grace: And, I assure you, had I known the Lady, and her Title to it, she should have been put into Possession of it as soon as she arriv'd in Town.*

My Uncle paid Mr. *Worthy* a great many Compliments on this Occasion, who answer'd them with much Politeness; and receiv'd Nicander with all the Tokens of sincere Friendship, notwithstanding he came with a Gentleman to deprive.

deprive him of Eight Hundred Pounds *per Annum*.

They both breakfasted with Mr. *Worthy*; which, being ended, he dress'd himself, and came with my Uncle and *Nicander* to pay me a Visit. As soon as he saw me, and the first Ceremonies were over; he said, *Here, Madam, are the Writings of your unfortunate Husband's Estate*——*May you, my fair Cousin, live long and happy.*——*The secret Pleasure, the innate Satisfaction arising from a virtuous Action, is a sufficient Reward for any temporal Loss we may sustain in the Accomplishment of it.*——*I'll give you an Account, in a few Days, of what Sums have been receiv'd and paid, during my Stewardship, and insist on paying you the Balance.*

It was some Time before I could return him the Acknowledgements I ought, for Tears——The Memory of my dear *Cordelio* claim'd this Tribute——At length, the Violence of my Grief being subsided, I render'd him Abundance of
Thanks,

Thanks, and applauded his Generosity and Honour. He stay'd Dinner, after which he took his Leave, with a Promise of visiting us again in a few Days : At the same Time, assuring us, That it was with Regret he left such good Company ; which he should not have done so soon, had he not been under a Pre-engagement.

When he was gone, our Conversation turn'd on the Goodness and Honour of this Gentleman.---In a few Days he return'd, brought his Account, and again insisted on my taking the Balance, which was upwards of Four Thousand Pounds. He stay'd the Remainder of the Day ; and we parted with a mutual Promise of continuing our Acquaintance, and of doing good Offices for one another.

Nicander and my Uncle stay'd in Town with us all the Winter ; and, in the Beginning of *April*, they prevail'd on *Clara* and me to accompany them to my Uncle's Country-House, which was commodiously and agreeably situated near *Greenwich*.

We

We had not been there long, when *Nicander* was married to *Clara*. My Uncle, upon the Day of his Marriage, presented him with the Lease of an Estate of One Hundred Pounds a Year, which he had lately purchas'd; and made *Clara* a Present of Five Hundred Pounds, to buy her Wedding-Cloaths.

Some short Time after they both went to Town, to settle their Affairs. They had not been long absent, when a malignant Fever seiz'd on my Uncle, and carry'd him to receive the Reward of all his Virtues; leaving the Character, from all who knew him, of one of the best of Men. We were all truly sensible of this fatal Stroke; but what Heaven ordains, must be submitted to.

My Uncle left me sole Heiress to Nine Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, and Five Thousand Pounds in ready Money; only ordering me to pay to *Nicander* and his Wife One Thousand Pounds, and a small Sum to the Poor. I paid the Legacies as directed, and enter'd into Possession of his Estate without any Trouble. I now resolv'd

resolv'd to spend the Remainder of my Life unmarried, and to continue in this Retirement.

Nicander and *Clara* staid with me about a Year, and then remov'd to *London*. They often favour me with their Company, and so does Mr. *Worthy* and his Family; to whom I have left all I have at my Decease, except One Thousand Pounds to *Clara*, and Five Hundred Pounds to each of her Children.

After experiencing various Vicissitudes of Fortune, I am likely to close my Days in Peace. I enjoy all the Happiness this World can give me — Have immense Riches — Honourable Acquaintance — Sincere Friends — And a Conscience not loaded with Guilt.

F I N I S.

